

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I. S. 9 (WEL.) PERSONNEL

Nov 21, 1944
(Date)

FULLERTON, J.O. 2ND LT 0-712547
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

ASCHERLEBEN 12
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: JUNE 29, 1944

Returned to UK: Nov 21, 1944

458TH BOMB GR. 754TH SQ
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT	ARMOUR, C.B.	UNKNOWN
CO-PILOT	BLODGETT, D.E.	KILLED (REPORTED)
NAVIGATOR	FULLERTON, J.O.	ENGLAND
BOMBARDIER	ERDMAN	LAST SEEN IN HOLLAND
RADIO OPERATOR	BRILL J	UNKNOWN
TOP TURRET GUNNER	RAWLS CG	UNKNOWN
MID TURRET GUNNER	REICHOTO F	ENGLAND
WAIST GUNNER	DAVIS B	LAST SEEN IN HOLLAND
WAIST GUNNER	OWENS	" " " "
TAIL GUNNER	ALLEN	" " " "

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

JUNE 29, 1944 1130 VOLLENHOVE HOLLAND

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

AILERONS SHOT UP #1 ENG FEATHERED OTHER ENGINES THROWING GAS

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 12,000

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

WAIST GUNNER DAVIS HIT BY FLAK IN HEAD.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

ALL JUMPED. SAW 6 CHUTES OPEN

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

YES

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

YES. REICHOTO, ERDMAN, DAVIS, OWENS & ALLEN

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

BLODGETT WAS REPORTED KILLED BY MEMBERS OF THE DUTCH UNDERGROUND. ALL OTHER CREWS MEMBERS (over) REPORTED TO BE WITH THE ORGANIZATION

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

NO

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

BELIEVE BLODGETT KILLED - FROM UNDERGROUND NEWS
" ARMOUR, BRILL, RAWLS CAPTURED BY GERMANS - HAVE NEVER SEEN
BELIEVE OTHERS SAFE - SAW THEM LAST IN HOLLAND

Were you wounded? NO

Were you in German hands? NO

Did you kill any Germans in escaping? NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers? YES

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

What security briefing were you given? COMPLETE

What souvenirs do you still possess? NONE

Home address. 206 BUFFALO ST FREEPORT, PA.

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

ARMOUR, BRILL, RAWLS

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

NONE

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE/~~ESCAPED~~ FROM (Name of Country) HollandFor All Personnel.

1. No. 0-712547 Rank 2/Lt Name John O. FULLERTON
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 12 missions - none
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 754 Sq.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 458 Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Navigator
7. Date of Birth 13 July 1922 8. Length of Service 2 years, 2 mos.
9. Peace time occupation Steel worker 10. Private address 206 Buffalo St.
Freeport, Pa.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags and escape photos
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPSWHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Navigator
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| PILOT | <u>2/Lt G.B. Armour</u> | - | <u>unknown</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>2/Lt D. Blodgett</u> | - | <u>Killed, according to Dutch</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>Narrator</u> | - | <u>Evaded</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>1/Lt J. Erdman</u> | - | <u>Last seen nr. Veghel, Holland</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>S/Sgt J. Brill</u> | - | <u>unknown</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt Rawls</u> | - | <u>unknown</u> |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt F. Piechoto</u> | - | <u>Evaded (see E & E report-6/656)</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>S/Sgt B. Davis</u> | - | <u>Last seen nr. Veghel</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | <u>S/Sgt Owens</u> | - | <u>" " " "</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt E. Allen</u> | - | <u>" " " "</u> |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-24 from Sta. 123, 29 June 1944, 0600 hrs.
18. Where and when did you come down Near Vollenhoven, Holland, 1130 hrs, 29 June '44.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Farmers hit them for me.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes, maps taken when I landed; money exchanged later. Had escape kit. Had been briefed at Kearney, Neb.

On 11 Sept. we went to stay "Blj de Boer" in the barn until we were right and were lots

WOLFFERTJAN

...returning from Germany, and the right aileron destroyed, and No.1 ... The rest of the crew bailed out as soon as possible. I landed in a level wheat field, which I later learned was part of the Northeast Polder in the Zuider Zee section of Holland.

TAKEN TO VILLAGE

There were some farmers working in the field. They rushed up to me and hid my chute and other equipment almost as soon as I landed. I could not see what had become of the others, so hid there in the wheat until that night, when two of the Dutchmen came and took me to the nearest village, VOLLENHOVEN, in a car. They dressed me in civilian clothes over my uniform, and gave me some food.

30 June: MOVES ON TO AMSTERDAM

Later that night the bombardier came in. We stayed that night in house which was the organization headquarters. Next morning we went to MEPPEL by auto. We stayed there one night, and then went on to AMSTERDAM, where I lived in a house on the outskirts of the city, to the east. Six of us were there altogether (myself, S/Sgt Piechoto, Lt Erdman, Sgts Davis, Owens, and Allen). We were given false identity cards and were taken to AMSTERDAM in pairs, with three guides, on the train. We stayed there at ZAANDYK for 5 days. Food was very scarce and there were a lot of Germans around.

7 July: PARTY DIVIDES

Next we were taken to VEGHEL, a small place near S' HERTOGENBOSCH. We were told we would be sent on to France from there. All except Piechoto and I left after one night for Belgium, and this was the last we saw of them. The bombardier was talking all the time and took too many chances, so I think they may have been caught.

15 July: AT FARM

S/Sgt Piechoto (see E & E Report No. 6/656) and I went to ERP for a short time, then to BOXTEL by auto. We stayed there with a woman for three nights, then went on to a farm near DEURNE for two nights. The Germans were active in the neighborhood and the organization was afraid to let us stay in one place very long. They had heard that many airmen had been caught in Belgium lately and decided not to send us there for a while, but to wait and see how the Normandy fighting turned out.

MEETS MORE EVADERS

At another farm just after this we met Lt. Tracy and Sgt Garafalo (see E & E reports Nos. 6/650 & 6/651) who were with us from now on. Two R.A.F. Sergeants, C Raymond Francis and Dennis Sharpe, were also there. (Both are now back safely.) Later we all moved to still another farm near DEURNE.

19 July: IN LIMBURG

On 18th or 19th July we took a train from VENRAAIJ to HOENSBROEK in Limburg. There we stayed in the home of a Dutch policeman for 10 days. There was some idea of sending us to Belgium by this route, through MAASTRICHT, as it was safer, but after a while they sent us back to ROERMOND instead.

1-15 Aug: IN BARN

We were taken to stay in a barn on a farm near HEYDTHUIZEN. 22 E & E'S, in all, were being sheltered there. We stayed two weeks, but moved on when things began to get hot. I heard that the place was raided by the Jerries later. The food was very poor.

15-30 August: IN WOODS

Sixteen of us were sent on to Belgium about the middle of August, but we stayed on, hiding in camouflaged shelters in the woods during the day, as there were so many Germans around. This was near ROGDEL. We spent another two weeks there, getting only a couple of sandwiches a day - "Twee vleesch en een jam." We had stolen German blankets, but no beds or heat.

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)
Date 22 November 1944

Attached:
Appendix "B"
"C"
"D"

I grade this evasion No.4

Theodore M. Purdy
THEODORE M. PURDY
Capt, CE

Disposal: Returned to UK

Major

Sept-Oct
AT FARM

Next we went to KELPEN, again to stay "Bij de Boer" until the middle of September. On 11 Sept. we went to another farm at LEVEROIJ, in Limburg. This was a much better place and we stayed there, living in the barn until about October 30. The English had advanced and were right across the canal, less than 1/2 mile away. There were lots of Germans around, and towards the end we went to live in a haystack, as they kept coming in the house for food. A German battery was set up near the farm and at times the gunners were less than 50 yds away. It became difficult to get food from the house, so at 0400 hrs on 1 Nov. I left alone for KELPEN to try to get help. I stayed there until 15 November, when the British released me, and also the others:

15 Nov:
RESCUED

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ. I.S.9(WEA).....	2		
G-2, COM Z	1	(less C)	
9th AF.....	1	" "	

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/652/2509

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 0-712547 Rank. 2/Lt Name John O. FULLERTON

Date of Interview 22 November 1944 (Evaded in Holland)

The chief of the organization which took me in charge at VOLLENHOVEN was a man called Heink.

At ERP we stayed with the local school-teacher and his brother, who was called HARRY. They had helped many other British and American aviators and had their names and photos hidden in the house.

While we were at DEURNE the organization disposed of a traitor - a Dutchman who was supposed to be helping them, but was really in league with the Gestapo. He was summoned to the house one night, and came. The organization men jumped him and disarmed him (he had four guns on his person). Then they took him out and shot him. We knew all about the affair, and saw this man. Next day we were moved to another farm a few miles away.

At ROERMOND the place where 22 of us were sheltered was run by a Dutch captain called BLACK or BLAKKE.

Our last and best place of refuge was with:

Frits and Harry Op Hey
St. Helena
LEVEROIJ
(Prov. Limburg)

These two brothers were really wonderful to us. They brought food to us in the haystack even when the Germans were only 50 yds. away. Six of us had to stay for two weeks in a hole 6x8x5, and get very cramped. We could not have done it at all if it had not been for the help of Harry and Frits, who risked their lives for us each day.

At the end, when I went to KELPEN, I contacted the organization man Pieter Henrikse, Post Ell, who was supposed to go back to LEVEROIJ to see the others and tell them where I was, and if possible bring them back. He told me he had been unable to find them. Actually he never went there because he was afraid of the Germans.

I had a much easier time of it the last two weeks than the others in our group. They owe everything to the Op Heys, whose pictures I still have.

Incidentally, when the British attack began on 14 November, the Germans knew through the Dutch that it was about to start. They took off, but said they would be back in three weeks with V-3. The Op Heys said there were many collaborators in that part of Limburg.

2679

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-712547 Rank 2/Lt NAME (print) John O. Fullerton

CLAIMS ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOWING UNIT 458 B Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA) on 20 Nov 1944, has signed a Security

Certificate, and is not considered suspect.

He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

Security reasons do/~~do not~~/ exist preventing his return to combat duty.

He was a ~~is~~/Evader/ for a period of 140 days.

Robert Bacon
1/Lt, AC.

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW & X DET.-MIS ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 48) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.

2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.

3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.

4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.

5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (6 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore **SECRET**.

2. a You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.

- (1) The names of those who helped you.
- (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
- (3) The route you followed.
- (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.

c You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.

d You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.

e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

GERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my *escape or evasion* from capture is **SECRET** and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) JOHN O FULLERTON
Rank 2nd LT A. S. N. 0-712547
Unit _____

Signed John O Fullerton
Dated Nov 21, 1944
Witness Edward J. DuKatch - 1st Lt AC.

RESTRICTED