

E&E 566 - Charles W. Compton, Jr.
(See E&E 565)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 566-566
EVASION IN FRANCE

18 April 1944
(Date)

Leonard D McCHESNEY, 2d Lt, O-685667 - 3 missions
Charles W COMPTON, JR, 2d Lt, O-673779 - 3 missions
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 30 December 43
Arrived in UK:

349 Bomb Sq, 100 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

17 April 44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-745913	2d Lt	Marvin L LEININGER	MIA	
CO-PILOT	O-687102	2d Lt	Albert W WITMYER	MIA	
NAVIGATOR	O-685667	2d Lt	Leonard D McCHESNEY	NARRATOR	
BOMBARDIER	O-673779	2d Lt	Charles W COMPTON, JR	NARRATOR	
RADIO OPERATOR	35671019	Sgt	Marshall (NMI) BANTA	MIA	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	12142759	Sgt	Meyer M WEINTRAUB ¹³	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	15323720	Sgt	Nicholas J MATULIK	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	19127496	Sgt	Eugene F. LATIMER	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	34038658	Sgt	James W PARHAM	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	13109080	Sgt	Charles J McGROGAN	MIA	

Were you wounded?

K and E Rpt 565-566

(Compton & McCheaney)

Evacuation in France.

Lt. Compton:-

FLAK AND FIGHTERS
we had lost our ball turret before leaving England. Over the target ~~for~~ our #4 engine was hit by flak, and as we straggled behind the formation fighters attacked us, knocking out our oxygen and intercom systems and then shooting off the tail of the ship. Lt. McCheaney and I decided to leave the ship. ~~2000~~

DELAYED JUMP

I delayed my jump to a height of 2000 or 1500 feet. When my chute opened I saw our plane breaking up and a chute burning in the air 2000 feet above me. I landed in a clearing, buried my chute and made west, and ran into a wood where I hid until 1700

CIVILIANS AVOIDED

hours. I saw some people while I was hiding, but I did not disclose myself to them. At 1200 hours I walked S along a small road through the wood until after having gone several miles I came upon

HELP

two men and a boy on bicycles. I declared myself to them and asked for help. After ~~consulting one~~ consulting one another for a few ~~minutes~~ minutes they led me to a house

(over)

~~not far away.~~
CREW MEMBER
BROUGHT IN

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

not far away. There the family fed me and put me to bed.
At 2300 hours I was awakened by Lt. McChesney
who had been brought in by a group of Frenchmen.
From this house our journey was arranged.

Lt. McChesney:

DELAYED
JUMP

CHUTE HUNG
UP IN TREE

IN HIDING
UNTIL
DARK

ATTRACTED
BY A LIGHT

WELCOMED

JOINS CREW
MEMBER

I delayed my jump for two or three thousand feet, and as I fell I saw pieces of our plane falling all around me. I landed in a tree; and, since I couldn't get my chute down, I left my nose west under it and ran ^{southwards} through the wood in which I had landed. Thinking that I heard dogs and ~~perhaps~~ human voices I hid on the edge of the wood till dark and then proceeded ~~some~~ southwards once more. Presently ~~seeing~~ ^{seeing} a light in a farmhouse several kilometers away ~~and~~ I crossed fields and waded streams until I reached the house. A girl answered my knocking at the door, and the family within immediately welcomed me, ~~gave~~ set food before me, and dried my clothes at the fire. The father of the family went out and brought in another man who told me that one of my comrades was in the vicinity and a few hours later I was taken to the house where Lt. Compton was sleeping and from where our journey was arranged.

E + K 565-566 (Compton McChesney)

App. B.

- a) At the German flying-school just S of TARBES ~~there~~ all grades of training ships from primary to advanced are in use. (Observation and Hearsay, February 1944)
- b) The arsenal in TARBES is manufacturing munitions for the Germans (Observation and Hearsay, February 1944)
- c) In SEMEAC (just E of TARBES) there is on the E side of Highway 117 which passes through the village an airplane-engine factory. (Observation, February 1944)
- d) At MINAUCOURT (16 kms N.W. of STE. MENEHOULD) and at POSSESSE (28 kms S. of STE. MENEHOULD on R.N. 382) there are important radar installations. The one at POSSESSE has as personnel 120 Blitzmädel and eight officers. (Hearsay January 1944)
- e) At Soissons and at Rheims the Germans are constructing fortifications and ~~are~~ along the Aisne are ^{preparing} ~~constructing~~ (over)

E + E Rpt. 565 (McCheaney)

Appendix D.

1. ^{Aids box} From my aids box I used the ~~box~~ matches, chewing gum, compass, and sewing kit. Aid received on the evening of the day when I landed made further use unnecessary. ~~I burned the box.~~
2. Purse I had a red purse, and of its contents I used the map of northern France, the compass, and the 2000 French francs, all of which I gave to my keepers except for a small amount used to buy cigarettes. The maps, compass, and file I lost in the mountains.
3. Photographs I carried six photographs which were used for my papers.
4. Lectures I was lectured on evasion and escape at Kearney, Nebraska in September, 1943 and found the lectures valuable. I would advise readers to keep in the best possible physical condition while they are waiting to cross the mountains.

E + E Rpt 566 (Compton)

Appendix D

1. Aids Box I used the benzadrine tablets while crossing the mountains, ~~and~~ The adhesive tape and sewing kit I used at various times. Almost immediate aid made use of the other articles unnecessary.
2. Purse. I had a red purse from which I used the maps. The money I gave to my helpers; the maps, compass, and file I gave to the Frenchmen as souvenirs.
3. Photographs I carried six photographs which were used for my papers.
4. Lectures I was lectured on evasion and escape by an evader at Kearney, Nebraska, and found the lectures of great value.

E&E # 566

INTERROGATOR Cherwin

COMPTON, CHARLES W-R Lt 0-673779
(Name) (Grade) (ASN)

349 100 30 December 43 17 April 44
(Squadron) (Group) (Missing in action) (returned to duty)

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

Charles has seen his baby

Language French

Time: 1930 Hours

Person requesting message M. ISADORE ELOY (CERNAY-EX-DORMOIS)

Date of contact with this person 30 Dec 1943

Description of this person: 5'10", bald, equiline nose,
dark-complexioned.

Services rendered: Shelter, food, clothing. Organized help