

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Holmes Arnold I. 1st Lt 0-696715
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

32 (No. of missions)

349 100
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:Date mission in action: 25 JulyDate arrived in UK: 1 Sept

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions) Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Townsend P/W Seen in Prison Camp
CO-PILOT Burthart Same
NAVIGATOR Holmes (Self) in England
BOMBARDIER Gardner P/W Seen in Prison Camp
RADIO OPERATOR Glaser Group reports returned to England
TOP TURRET GUNNER Kolar Group reports in Hospital in England
BAIL TURRET GUNNER Anderson P/W Seen in Prison Camp
WAIST GUNNER Lane Same
~~WAIST GUNNER~~ Only one waist gunner.
TAIL GUNNER Milam Same

Decorations: Air MedalDate of Birth: 22 Feb 1922Private Address: 2494 Fourth St, Guyanega Falls, OhioLength of Service: 2 YearsJob as Civilian: Inspector

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

Thorpe Abbots 0400 Hrax

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No GuidesDo you speak FRENCH? No SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? NoDid you have identity papers? No

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

No

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

No

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

Yes 186th Bomb Group 1 Sept. 1944

Date of arrival in Spain: *Not in Spain.*

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: *No in Gibraltar.*

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *By Air 1 Sept. 28th Field Hospital*

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

*Townsend
Gardner
Burkhart
Milam
Lane
Anderson*

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

None

1335

R E S T R I C T E D
S E C U R I T Y D E C L A R A T I O N

AAF Station No. 365

Date 1 Sept. 1944

ALL PERSONNEL SUBJECT TO U. S. MILITARY JURISDICTION ARRIVING AT OR DEPARTING FROM AIR FIELDS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING SECURITY DECLARATION:

1. I CERTIFY, that, other than properly certified official mail, I have with me no personal communication, written or printed material of any nature, diaries or memoranda, photographs, reproductions, or other censorable articles which have not been passed by U. S. Military Censor; or captured or salvaged enemy material, the transportation or possession of which is prohibited by U. S. or British censorship or security regulations.
2. FURTHER, that upon leaving this Base I will not disclose to unauthorized personnel any military information gained while in this Theater.
3. FURTHER, I am ~~not~~ an escaped Prisoner of War, an 'evadee' from capture while in enemy territory, or a released 'internee.'
4. FURTHER, that I am not on initial entry into the United Kingdom, bringing in with me more than ten pounds sterling (British currency).

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>ASN</u> | <u>ORDERS</u> | <u>DATE AND POINT OF DEPARTURE</u> | <u>TYPE AND NO. OF AIRCRAFT.</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. HOLMES, ARNOLD L. | 1st Lt. | 0-675915 | | 1/9/44 outcom, France. | B-24 - No. 8941 (500 lbs) |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | |

(Incl 1, USSTAF Regs 46-2, 1 July 44)

"C" Report

There is no material for a C Report in this story.

1st Lt. Arnold L. Holmes 0695915

349100

25 Jul - 1 Sep

1332-

On the 25 July 1944 we were hit by flak and had to abandon our ship. While parachuting down we were shot at by Germans. I passed out before I landed and when I regained consciousness I was in German hands. I was in a hospital in Paris when the FFI ousted the Germans and took control. I was evacuated through Military channels.

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS.

Read
PS

Lt. Holmes

Had Dog Tags

Area bombing supporting front lines.

Hit in left wing tank, wing on fire, attempted to put it out from bomb bay, fire came back into bomb bay out of control, bombs had all been dropped before hit, 11,000 ft. and ordered to bail out. I delayed jump to 2500 ft. At 2000 ft, Germans started shooting with rifles and then with auto weapons. Passed out at 1000 , came to on ground with germans surrounding me, par off etc., they had walked me away 200 ft. before I came to.

While coming down counted other 8 chutes in air. They took me to a tent where I met my w.gunner. That P.M. at framhouse t they got pilotand T. gunner. We moved out by truck in evening They put us up in schoolhouse. At 4. A.M. they brought in Bomb Co-Pilot Radio Op. and Ball Turrnet gunner. I never came across Eng. (Kolar Sgt.) but later found out that he had been shot in jumping, had been in German hospital and was later picked up by Allies and brought back to England some two weeks ago.

Stayed in school for 2 days. More prisoners came in from time to time. 3rd day started walking S.E. (about 24 of us) Were guarded by ten guards, marched in 3s. At night stopped in village and fed by villagers Next morning started off and walked 33 miles S. an S.E. and arrived at french castle where we slept in barn on hay. Moved out on 3rd day. At noon of 3rd day arrived at Alecon where fed by French Red cross. Some names were taken by Red C_oss.

They were all on the level. At chateau ~~wax~~ other prisoners goined us and we picked up a further 30 p/w after leaving chateau, so that 68 of us arrived in Alencon. After 3 hrs. in Alencon (Sun tanned uniforms) walked out to another town where stopped and were fed by french.

At nightfall left on trucks with 2 or 3 guards in back, which took us to P/W camp on edge of town (might have been mil. barracks) Next morning we were segregated from other P/W All gd. force. Searched here lightly. Then we were given run of camp. Moved out on trucks 3rd ~~night~~ day to Chartres Stalag. Flying personnel were separated, walked across town to a Dulag. It was at stalag above that names were taken for the 1st time. At Dulag were searched carefully, lighter, pens, pencils etc. were taken from us. I managed to keep my compass which I left in W.C. The made list in trip. had us sign for it, placed in envelope. 1 list to us, 1 in envel. 1 they kept. Said we would get stuff back in Germany. @ 4 th I was there got fever and was moved to hosp. in Chartes. On 3rd day when fever started I was refused admittance to hospital because I was Air force man. It was on the 7th that I went to hospital and same day in a German amb. with 4 Gerrys I went to Paris. Went to clearing hosp. and was sent to a Luft Hosp. (Beaujon) On arrival one of Gerry patients an ME pilot saw how bad I was feeling so he spoke to chief doctor who put me in a room right away. Later on they brought in Lt. Miller P51 and gave him 2nd bed. Very well cared for and stayed there until moved Pitie on Sat. 29 sitting in truck. French nurses rode with in trucks & ambulances. F.F.I. On Friday A.M. Germans . Tell story of F.F.I. etc. At Pitie French took over, Germans had taken most of supplies and they were every short. On 26 C^{pt.} Arnold came to see us, sent us Cigs. Returned on Sunday with a Doc. who decided who could be moved. Monday 10th amb. arrived and we were moved to where to 20 th Genl. Hosp. From there to 77th Evacuation. A Canadian reporter came into Pitie Monday but I gave him name and home address only.

Stayed at 77 only one night Then I moved to 28th Field Hosp.
in Le Man area. At 77th got a discharge paper saying fit for
evacuation . Spoke to Col. on A.Strip (of Transport Unit)Air.
They flew me to ~~my~~ base at Harleston reported to S-2 there
He questioned me , called my base , then had me fill in a Sec.
form to sign. They sent my old Co-pilot who ftook me to my base.

2 fellows escape 1 sig corp, 1 B24 pilot guard fired 3 shots
but they got away. Guard was subsequently increaaed