

E&E 567 - John W. Runcel
(See E&E 568)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 5701
EVASION IN FRANCE

APRIL - 17 - 1944
(Date)

John W RUNCEL Sgt 16087728
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FIVE
(Number of Missions)

TARGET: Ludwigshaven
MIA: 30 December 43
Arrived in UK:

APRIL - 17 - 44

351 Bomb Squadron, 100 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt	Francis P SMITH, JR	✓	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt	James P LAW	✓	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt	Saul (NMI) HERCHWOTIZ	✓ LEFT IN VILLAGE IN MTS WITH	MIA BAD LEG.
BOMBARDIER	0-688710	2d Lt	Clyde S MANION		E&E #
RADIO OPERATOR	11129879	2d Sgt	John L SWENSON	✓ LEFT IN FRANCE WITH BAD FEET	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32583144	T/Sgt	John T AMERY		E&E #469
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31198980	Sgt	Alvin C LITTLE	✓ LEFT IN PARIS WITH BROKEN ANKLE	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36500968	Sgt	Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR		E&E #
WAIST GUNNER	16087728	Sgt	John W RUNCEL		NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt	William (NMI) WERTZ		E&E #

Were you wounded? YES CUT ON LEFT LEG WHEN HIT GROUND

Stencils Corrected - 29 Apr 44 - lll

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

E & B REPORT NO. 567-568
EVASION IN ~~France~~

18 April 44

(Date)

John W RUNCEL, SGT, 16087728 - 5 missions
Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR, Sgt, 36500968 - 5 missions

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: LUDWIGSHAVEN

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 30 December 43

Arrived in UK:

17

20 April 44

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

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt	Francis P SMITH, JR	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt	James P LAW	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt	Saul (NMI) HERCHWOTIZ	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688710	2d Lt	Clyde S MANION	E&E #577
RADIO OPERATOR	11129879	S/Sgt	John L SWENSON	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32583144	T/Sgt	John T AMERY	E&E #469
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31198980	Sgt	Alvin C LITTLE	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36500968	Sgt	Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR	NARRATOR
WAIST GUNNER	16087728	Sgt	John W RUNCEL	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt	William (NMI) WERTZ	E&E #576

Were you wounded?

E&E # 567-568

INTERROGATOR Chernin

RUNCER & STUMPFIG
(Name)

Sgt
(Grade)

John W RUNCER - 16087728
Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR.
(ASN) 36500968

418 100 30 December 43 18 April 44
(Squadron) (Group) (Missing in action) (Returned to duty)

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

Bien arrivés Paulette

Language French

Time Evening broadcast, 2nd Tuesday of the month

Person requesting message Amé Charles - Parker (to Allée Pétain)

Date of contact with this person March 1944

Description of this person: Tall, grey-haired, connected with
Red Cross

Services Rendered: FOOD + LODGING.

E + E Rpt 567, 568, ~~576~~, 577

(Runcel, Stumpf, Wertz, Manian.

Sgt. Runcel:-

SEE E+E 469
(Sgt. Amery)

NO RECOLLECTION
OF PULLING
RIFECORD

IMMEDIATE
AID

JOINS CREW
MEMBERS

After our escort had left us while we were returning from the target we were attacked by fighters which quickly set our ship afire. The ~~order was given~~ order to bail out was given, and I jumped at about 21,000 feet. I do not remember pulling my rife cord; but I was soon conscious of fighters buzzing me, and then I saw seven chutes in the air as I drifted over wooded country and ^{landed in} floated down into a village. Many people ~~people~~ gathered around me as I landed and gave me the broken arm signal. I saw a chute come down just then near a wood about a quarter of a mile away, and I ran towards it. As I approached it I saw an old woman waiting for me and, waving frantically at me to hurry. When I reached the wood, ^{I found} a group of Frenchmen waiting ~~within~~ in the cover of the trees to receive me. Several of them hurried off and ~~returned~~ within five minutes returned with Lt. Lerkowitz and Sgt. Swenson.

(over)

Appendix B

- a) At MINAUCOURT (16 kms N.W. of STE. MENEHOULD) the French population has been forced to leave the town. There is a large radio location station there run by Blitzwider and German officers who are quartered in the town. The French want them bombed out. (Hearsey, January 1944)
- b) At MORLAIX the railway viaduct just east of the station (across the Place Thiers and the Rue ~~Ang~~ Ange de Guernisac) is too well guarded for the resistance organization to blow up. If it were bombed, all railway traffic to the west would be disrupted. (Hearsey January and March 1944)
- c) At ATTIGNY (ARDENNES), 14 kms, N.W. of VOUZIER'S there are four large tanks, one of which contains 450,000 litres of alcohol distilled at the sugar beet factory there. (Hearsey, January 1944)
- d) At VOUZIER'S the Germans have a large concentration of dummy wooden tanks. These they move about the outskirts
(over)

of the town. They have been attacked several times by Allied bombers.

- e) In ^{the} TARBES W and N of the Arsenal there is a large infantry training camp. Both Rumanians and Germans were being trained there. (Observation, March 1944)
- f) There were many factories and much construction material on the sidings along the railway line outside of Rheims on the way to Paris. (Observation, end of February 1944)
- g) In the Ardennes Radio Algiers could be heard more clearly than London, whereas in and around TARBES Algiers could not be heard so well as London (January and March 1944; observation and hearsay)

E + F 567 (Runch)

App. D.

1. Aids Box. I used the sewing kit, the compass, the adhesive tape, and the halazone and benzadrine tablets. The last two were especially helpful in the mountains.
2. Purse. I had a red purse and from it I used the map of France, the compass, and 2000 French francs. The money I used to purchase food and supplies, and I had no surplus. The maps, compass, and file I gave to helpers.
3. Photographs. I had six photographs which were used for my French papers.
4. Lectures. I heard lectures on evasion given by S2 officers of 100th Bomb Group. ~~I would~~ I would suggest that ^{get} men try to ~~get~~ shoes a few sizes larger than they are accustomed to wear.

for crossing
the mountains

E + E 568 (Stumpfig)

1. Aids Box. I used the sewing kit, adhesive tape, Loxicles tablets, and benzadrine tablets, the last three articles while crossing the mountains. I could have used more adhesive tape.
2. Purse. I had a red purse. Of its contents I used only the 2000 French francs, which I spent for food and tobacco. There was no surplus currency. The maps I gave to helpers. The compass and file I lost.
3. Photographs. I had six photographs which were used for my French papers.
4. Lectures. I heard lectures on evasion at the 100th Bomb Group. They were valuable.

App. C

Sgt. Runcel landed in VAUX LES MOURON, ARDENNES
(12 kms. S.E. of VOULZIERES) on 30 Dec. 43. He was immediately taken by
several Frenchmen to a hut in the wood and hidden there with
Lt. Herbowitz and Sgt. Swenson. At 2000 hours Sgt. Stumpfzig was
brought to this hut by the 16 year old boy who was the post-man of
VAUX LES MOURON and who had brought him food when he landed
this afternoon and later had taken him to the house of a
railway-crossing guard in VAUX LES MOURON where he had been
fed and given civilian clothing. After two nights in this hut
→ ~~That night~~ Runcel, Stumpfzig, Herbowitz, and Swenson
were taken into VAUX LES MOURON to the house of a man about
40 years old (has wife, ~~one~~ one small boy, one daughter, and one
baby). Here they ~~stayed in civilian clothes~~ stayed for
two days. They were given civilian clothes and were visited by
the mayor of VAUX LES MOURON who helped throw the Germans off
the scent and the priest of VAUX LES MOURON (had been a P/W
for two or three years in Germany) who with his brother got in touch
with the priest of AURE. After two days two new men took the
four Americans by bicycle to the house where Compton and McClesney
were staying (E+ E# 565 & 566), and after supper here they took

(over)

(Implement dealer, agent for
McCormick and John Deere farm implements)

Runcel, Stumpfzig, and Hertowitz to ~~the~~ large house of a bachelor. After two nights here Runcel and Stumpfzig ~~joined~~ with Hertowitz and Swenson joined Little, Wertz, Marion, Compton and McChesney and were taken in a lorry to ATTIGNY.

Sgt. Wertz had landed near SECHAULT (15 kms. S. of VOZIERES) and walked into a café in the village. There a cross-eyed man in charge of the bar in the café took him next door where an old woman put him to bed. That evening the cross-eyed man told Wertz that he would be taken away by automobile. The next day a large man brought him civilian clothes and took him back to the café where M. and Mme. CHARLES BODART from MANRE (8 kms. W. of SECHAULT) were waiting for him. They took him by bicycle to their home in MANRE where he stayed for three days. On the third day

~~Swenson and Marion joined him here and~~ ^{(they were taken to the house of a priest where they found Marion. The three of them were here picked up by} ~~the~~ the lorry which took all the Americans to ~~the~~ ATTIGNY the next day.

Marion landed in a field one and a half miles N.W. of AUTRY (8 kms. E. of SECHAULT). Two woodcutters met him and took him into a bar across from the Railway station in AUTRY. Here the proprietor of the café told the woodcutters to turn Marion over to the Germans; but a young man stopped them as they were about to do so and took Marion to PAUL PESTATE, the station-master of AUTRY. PESTATE fed him, put him into a box which four railway men put on a goods wagon, and shipped him to CHALLERANGE where GEORGES MICHEL, the station-master of CHALLERANGE, fed him, gave him civilian clothes, and then put him on ~~the~~ on a caboose ~~at~~ going to MONTHOIS. At the station of

(family: wife, grandparents, children)

MONTHOIS he was taken off the train ~~and taken~~ by JEAN, a railway man whom he had met in AUTRY, and taken to his home outside of MONTHOIS where he stayed a week. Then JEAN put Marion into a railway uniform and took him to CHALLERANGE where GEORGES MICHEL gave him his own identity card. JEAN then took him to AUTRY where he spent the night in the station with PAUL PESTATE. The next day a Belgian, an young Frenchman, and a girl took him in a lorry to the house of CHARLES BODART in MANRES. Here he met the priest of MANRES (chaplain in a British battalion before DUNKIRK, decorated by British and French, has French .75s hidden in church steeple), ~~who took~~ he was taken to the priest's house where he stayed until Wertz and Swenson ~~were~~ were brought in and the three were picked up by the lorry which took all the Americans to ATTIGNY.

From this point the story of Runcel, Stumpfig, Wertz, and Marion is the same as that of Compton and McChesney (E+E 565-566) save for the following details.

1. ~~to Paris~~ When they all reached PARIS JEAN (of the PERNOT organization) took Stumpfig, Wertz, Little, and Swenson to ~~the~~

~~my own home of~~

ESBLY to the house of CHARLINE CHABLE (retired actress, 30 years old, tall, dyed red hair, very large eyes). They stayed here for a week. Then RENE took them all back to the apartment in Paris where the others had stayed. They had all left except Manion and James Foy, a Canadian.

2. PIERRE, YVES, JOE and another Frenchman took Stumpfig ~~to the apartment~~, Wertz, and Swenson from the apartment that night and took the train for ~~TARBES~~. ~~Stumpfig~~ TARBES. In TARBES Runcel and Stumpfig stayed for 17 days at 40 ALLÉE DE PETAIN with a woman who was connected with the Red Cross. Then they were called for by CASANAVE who took all the eight Americans by lorry to BAGNERES-DE-BIGORRE. In TARBES Wertz ~~was turned~~ and Swenson were turned over to MANUEL DANIEL who took them to the home of JULES LABAT (21 years old, architect, lives with his mother) where they stayed for a week. Then DANIEL and a blonde young man who is a railway watchman took them to a hotel. They were here for three days, and then DANIEL and ~~and~~ CHARLES LE MOUSSE (head of organization which receives arms and explosives from the British) took them to the home of the latter for a night whence they were removed to the home of JEAN (~~member of~~ of the Identity Bureau of the police department in TARBES; has wife and two small children). They were here a week and a half and then

- next -

They here saw ~~Andre~~ ANDRE (a Greek now in Spain) YVES,
a PIERRE from NICE, BABY (the radio operator of the organization),
and a British I.O. who gave them money for equipment.

CASANAVE took them to join the other Americans.

3. Manion and Foy left Paris last of all guided by FRANCINE BERNARD who was to have met them in LA MAISON failed to appear. FRANCINE then took them on to TARBES and turned them over to a young man who took them to the home of some Jewish people on the outskirts of TARBES. The next morning they were taken to CASANAVE'S apartment, and he took them to the restaurant of M. HECHT (has wife and two daughters: DENISE and REINE; he is the brains of the organization, the leadership of which in the south CASANAVE has taken over from BERNARD). They stayed here three weeks. Then a tall Spaniard (name is known to Foy) took them by train to ~~Bag~~ BAGNERE-DE-BIGORRE and to the Hotel American where the next day the other eight Americans ~~appeared~~ arrived.