

MAC DONALD

GINEIKIS

(1)

SETMCD - We left Thorpe Abbatts at 1030 on 5 November 1943 in a B-17 to bomb a synthetic gas works at Gilsenkirchen, Belgium. We made our run and dropped our bombs but then we took some flak hits between #1 and #2 engine. We lost #1 prop and #2 engine started acting up. We could hear the pilot and co-pilot discussing what to do, and I heard the pilot say he thought we could make the coast. [NOTE - He later flew the crippled ship back to the UK, he and the co-pilot staying with it]. Finally the order came over the interphone to bale out and I was the first to leave the ship. As I was immediately over a town, I did not delay my jump, for doing so would have almost certainly resulted in capture. I counted five chutes in the air. My chute caught in a tree when I landed, but a crowd of peasants gathered around me and helped me to dislodge it and hide it. I gave them my heated suit, having thrown away the balance of my flying clothes while descending. The peasants kept repeating "Comrade" and pointed in the direction of SW.

So I started running across the fields in that direction and after about 3 KM met my engineer. He and I kept on across country together for several KM. In one field we saw two youngsters picking beets and we tried to talk with them, but they would not notice us. About 1400 we came to a thicket where we decided to hide and wait for dark. There had been no evidence of a search. After we had been there about half an hour, two old peasants came by on bikes and told us to wait until 1800, at which time they would return. They did so as promised and brought coffee and civilian clothes. They took us to a nearby farmhouse, and the whole populace, including two escaped Russian prisoners ^{came to visit us} We got up to leave several times but each time we were motioned to sit down. About 2200 a Frenchman was brought in to see us and from that point our journey was arranged. In the course of my journey I was separated from my engineer but was joined by Sgt. Gineikis, the other waist gunner.

Sgt. G. —

(3)

I landed in an open field and about fifteen people immediately gathered around. I took off my chute and my flying coveralls and the peasants took them away. Unfortunately, my photographs, which I thought were in my shirt pocket, were in the coveralls, so I lost them at this point. As it turned out, they were too small anyway. I asked the people where I was and they told me it was Belgium, very close to the German frontier. They also told me that there were Germans all around. I started walking across country, first W and, later, NW. About 1530 I decided to hide in an open field in which there was dense vegetation about three feet deep. I thought that the search would be more thorough in the woods and thickets. However, there was no search and, as the ground was damp and cold, I decided to move on, hoping to find a haystack. I went through several woods, including one unusually well-kept one. I walked down a dirt road past several houses, and a man came along on a bike and pointed NW across the fields. Hearing dogs barking and having been

warned that they were used by German sentries, I ran in the direction pointed out to me until I was tired. I stopped to rest by the side of a road and about 1615 saw a farmer ploughing. As I was trying to talk to him, I heard the sound of a motorcycle and wanted to run off, but the farmer motioned me to stay, saying "Comrade. Good". He was quite right. The motorcyclist talked to me with the aid of an English-Belgian (sic) dictionary and told me to hide until 1700, at which time he would return with help. Since this man looked fairly prosperous and I had been warned against such people, I changed my hiding place so that I could observe anyone coming to my old one. This turned out to be unnecessary, for the rendezvous was kept by two old men on bikes who brought food and civilian clothes. We were soon joined by a person who spoke some English, and from that point my journey home was arranged. I joined Sgt. MacDonald later on the trip.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *George P. Shinkas S/Sgt 11045517*
 Unit:- *349 Bomb*

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape

1. AIDS BOX

- (a) Did you use your aids box? *no*
 (b) If not, had you one on you? *yes Immediate aid*
 (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
 (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
 (f) How did you finally dispose of the box?
 (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? *yes*
 If so, state COLOR. *purple*
 In NOT, State why not.
 (b) Did you use the purse? *yes*
 (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones?

Compass. *no*

Illustrating Belgium territory

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. 2000 Francs
How did you spend the money? *Wisky, Champagne per 100*

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *As souvenirs*

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency. *None*

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+)

(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.) *Not issued*

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?

If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass.

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass. ✓

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife)

(b) Were they satisfactory? *Yes*

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment? *no*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? *yes*
If so, how many? *three too small*

(b) Did you use them? *no*
State how. *new photos taken*

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *at base Lt Terry*

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *Yes but mistrusted my first guide due to personal property*

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "B"

MIS (X).....

The following information has been obtained from our interview with
..... (.....) who escaped after capture
by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy/enemy occupied territory.
Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not
to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from
to.....

*Fighter base located near Route XIA 5
kilo from Hasselt. Large storage tanks and
factory located near XIA 15 kilo from Hasselt
(East) I thought combined with either air base or
aircraft engine plant*

Donald Mills, 2nd Lt. Bombardier - 4/25/43
safe + good shape

John Johnson R.A.F. Bomb Gunner with
Mills in Paris also one R.A.F. with them

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORT NO. 256-257

- a. West of HASSELT there are high storage tanks which may have been (c)
natural gas or petrol. (observation)
- b. There is a German garrison at SOLFERINO, France. (observation)
- c. The railroad station at DAX is heavily guarded by ^{well} heavily armed guards.
- d. There is an old fort at BAYONNE used as a German officers headquarters.
There were approximately 100 staff cars parked in front and the ~~area~~ ^{area} was ~~occupied~~ ^{occupied} with officers and ~~army~~ ^{army} troops. ~~The~~ ^{The} Armory by the side of the fort
is used as a storehouse.
- e. There is a fighter base located near Route XII, five kilometers from
HASSELT. Large storage tanks and factory ^{at} located near XII, fifteen kilometers
from HASSELT (east). ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~thought~~ ^{thought} ~~combined~~ ^{combined} with either air base or aircraft
engine plant.

Handwritten notes:
This is a part of
the general
situation
in the area

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

E & B REPORT NO. 257
EVASION IN FRANCE

10 December 1943

(Date)

³⁰¹⁹¹
A/C #42-349

George F GINEIKIS S/Sgt 11045517
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

349 100
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 25
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 yr 10 months
HOME ADDRESS: 81 Greeley Street
CLINTON, Mass.

MIA: 5 November 1943

Arrived in Spain:

Arrived: 22 November 1943

Arrived: 7 December 1943

10 December 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

PILOT 0-725595 1st Lt ^{William} R FLESH
CO-PILOT 0-798486 1st Lt ^{John} Gossage
NAVIGATOR 0-735967 1st Lt Omar (MCI) GONZALES
BOMBARDIER 0-676309 2d Lt James J LUX
RADIO OPERATOR 34201968 T/Sgt Connor D BROWSTER
TOP TURRET GUNNER 37259551 T/Sgt Harold L POPE
BALL TURRET GUNNER 36507324 S/Sgt Francis G DOLSEN
WAIST GUNNER 11045517 S/Sgt George F GINEIKIS
WAIST GUNNER 32287971 S/Sgt Leon E MacDONALD
TAIL GUNNER 20902175 S/Sgt James (MCI) MARASCO

Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

ED " " " "

P/W

P/W

KIA

E & B # 280

P/W

NARRATOR

NARRATOR

P/W

Were you wounded?

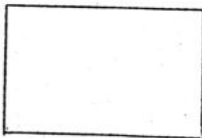
HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and I Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *George P. Shinkus 5/sgt 1104551*
2. Decorations. *Air Medal*
3. Unit or Squadron. *349 Sgd*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *100 Sfg*
5. Date of Birth. *11/29/18*
6. Length of Service. *1 yr 10 months*
7. Private Address. *81 Greely St Clinton Mass.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down?
Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
*Thompson Abbot - 11-5-43 - 9:45 AM.
Near Hasselt at 2:15 PM (10 miles east)*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *Left coast*
10. Were you wounded? *No*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *—*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *—*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes. French + Belgian*
14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when? *Gibraltar - ~~12-9-43~~
R.H.F. Sgt wrote down report in presence of civilian -
known. Col Foster not present*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *No*
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *3 times Gibraltar and Madrid*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *Nov 28, 43*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *Dec 7, 43*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *Gibraltar - 12-9-43*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Port Beach 12-10-43*

NAME George P. Smith RANK Sgt ASN 110415517 REPORT NO. _____

SQ 349 GROUP 104 A/C NO. 230709 Letter _____ Load HE Date 11-5-43



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: Unknown

Enemy Fighter Tactics: Not known
Markings:

Our Tactics: Evasion

Our Fighter Support: Good

<u>Flak</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
	<u>2:00 pm</u>	<u>Belochberg</u>	<u>Good</u>

Technical Failures

Motors: L

Armor:

Armament:

Miscellaneous: /

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

n. - n.

Name(Print) George P. Stenakis Signed George P. Stenakis
Rank Sgt. A.S.N. 11045517 Date 12-7-43
Unit B-49 Bomb 100th Witness Don W. Foster
Col. R.S.C.