

S E C R E T

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

SECRET  
By Authority of  
AC of S, G-2  
Initials. *W.H.* WSH:  
Date. *11 August 1944.*

11 August 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 893 (IS9(WEA)7/9/22)  
ESCAPE IN FRANCE

Joseph H DEZIEL, Pfc, 11011784  
Hq & Hq Serv Btry, 377 Para FA  
101 AB Division

MLA: 6 June 1944  
Arrived in UK:  
9 August 1944

BAILS OUT

We were hooked up and ready to go out when a burst of flak caught out plane. It slowed us down and we got out of formation. A minute later the pilot gave the order to bail out. I landed safely in a field and cut off my chute at once. I saw only one other chute come out. This was the Colonel's driver. (I don't know his name.) He landed close to me. I got my compass out and we started to crawl away, as we heard Germans talking nearby and knew they had seen us land.

HIDES

We got into a hedge and hid. The Germans combed the field. Just as they were going to find us, I threw two hand grenades at them, and we started firing. Then we ran away, across another field, where we hid again in a hedge. It was pretty dark and the Germans did not come after us until next morning. Then they discovered us and began firing at us. We ran out of ammunition about noon and came out to surrender, as we were surrounded.

CAPTURED

They took our equipment and marched us to an outpost with our hands up. Then we were passed on to another outpost, and finally to a CP where they asked us the number of our division, how many men there were in the plane, how many jumped, etc. They did not seem to know the 101st Div insignia. They put us against a wall and threatened us with machine guns.

INTERPRETS

After an hour or so, they took us in a truck to a P/W cage near ST PIERRE EGLISE. They asked if any of us spoke French, as none of them spoke English. I said I could, and they used me to interpret.

IN A P/W CAGE

I was in this cage 5 days. About 350 Americans were there, most of them from the 82nd AB Division. Some of them were badly wounded, but the Germans left them lying in the open field without treatment, sometimes for as long as 24 hours. About 50 or 60 men would be taken out each day and sent on to another camp. We got a little cabbage soup and some black bread to eat, and in the morning some so-called coffee. The guards ate not much better, though.

STARTS FOR GERMANY

On the 10th, the rest of us marched over to TOURLAVILLE where we were put in some barracks used for French Resistance prisoners. Next morning we were marched through the streets of CHERBOURG and were put into a train. We were told they were going to take us to German, but we got only as far as BRICQUEBEC.

STRAFED

They marched us south on the road to LA HAYE DU PUIES. At about 1600 we had reached a small place called BESNEVILLE when 4 P-47's came over. They looked us over carefully. We waved some pieces of yellow cloth we had, and thought they recognized us as American P/W's, but suddenly they came back and strafed us.

DISASTER

I noticed smoke coming from the guns of the first plane and jumped into the ditch. The second plane came and strafed the road a minute later, and the last two shot up the orchard alongside where a lot of prisoners and guards had run for shelter. Those in the front of the column got the worst of it, as they had no time to get away. Twenty-three were killed, and 47 wounded. The German 1st Sgt and several of his men were also killed.

THE NIGHT  
AFTER

The wounded were taken to a farm nearby and attended by German medics who came in a few minutes. The French people tore up their sheets to make bandages. We helped as much as we could, and then went to sleep in the barn. I was told one man got away in the confusion.

GETS FOOD

We went on the next evening through LA HAYE and LESSAY, and reached a small village called CROCHERE, near MUNEVILLE-LE-BINGARD about 2300 that night. We stopped at a farm and slept in the straw most of the time next day. We were to leave again at 1900. The Germans could not get food, and sent me to the farm house to ask for some, because I speak French. In the kitchen I met a Frenchman and asked him if he would help us to escape. He said he would meet us nearby after dark.

HELPED BACK

We met the Frenchman on schedule. He found us a place to hide, and brought us some civilian clothes to wear. Later he put us in touch with the Resistance chief of the region, and we were sent back to American-occupied territory. MULLINS (E&E Report No. 836) left first. I stayed on a few days longer to try to get more information, and to help others to get out.

Compiled by

THEODORE M PURDY, Jr  
Capt, CE

Approved by

*W S Holt*  
W S HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

"A" Distribution - no Appendix "D"  
SF, G-2 Division, SHAEF - Report, Appendix B

S E C R E T

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

11 August 1944

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 893

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with an enlisted man who evaded capture in enemy occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any details as to the source.

Statement of information covering period from 6 June 1944  
to 9 August 1944

- a. German ambulances going up to the front often carry ammunition and other troop supplies, although they are marked with the Red Cross. Informant heard this from many French people he talked with, and also from German guards who joked about it. During period 6 June-20 July it was common knowledge in LESSAY - ST LO area.
- b. Germans use peasant wagons to send supplies and equipment up to lines during the day, as their own transport is strafed too often by our planes.

RESTRICTED

Deziel

WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 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 (5 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**.

- 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.

CERTIFICATE

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) JOSEPH H DEZIEL  
Rank PFC A. S. N. 11011784  
Unit 377 Jacht F.A. Bn  
101 Airborne

Signed Joseph H Deziel  
Dated 9 August 1944  
Witness

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

893

DATE: 10 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES W. DORSEY, WO JG, USA, w-2118490

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

JOSEPH H. DEZIEL, Pfc, 11011784

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

Joseph H. Dezziel

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



James W. Dorsey  
WOTIS.

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as \_\_\_\_\_

JOSEPH H. DEZIEL, Pfc, 11011784, 377 Parachute F. A. Bn

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. Verty

F. S. VERTY, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

~~EVADED CAPTURE~~ ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.

31 JUL 1944  
No. 66  
J. H. Deziel  
C. H. Deziel  
J. H. Deziel

- 1. No. 11011784 Rank Pfc Name Joseph H. Deziel  
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 1st combat mission
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 377 Precht FA, 101 AB Div
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 101 AB Div 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Ammo carrier
- 7. Date of Birth 7 Feb 1912 8. Length of Service 3 yrs 4 mos
- 9. Peace time occupation Weaver 10. Private address 501 Front St  
Woonsocket, R.I.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? French, fluently

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 TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew (Does not know names of others in plane)
- 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 .....
- CO-PILOT .....
- NAVIGATOR .....
- BOMBARDIER .....
- RADIO OPERATOR .....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER .....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER .....
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) .....
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) .....
- TAIL GUNNER .....

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure C-47 troop carrier, left England 2200  
on 5 June 1944

18. Where and when did you come down? Vicinity of Ste Mere Eglise, 10 miles south

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left on field

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Had none

SECRET

## BALES OUT

We were hooked up and ready to go out when a burst of flak caught our plane. It slowed us down and we got out of formation. A minute later the pilot gave the order to bail out. I had three bundles of ammunition to push out before I could jump, and we had lost a lot of altitude before I got out, but I landed safely in a field, and cut off my chute at once. ~~The plane disappeared over a hill, flying low and on fire.~~ I saw only one other chute come out. This was the Colonel's driver. (I don't know his name.) He landed close to me. I got my compass out, and we started to crawl away, as we heard Germans talking nearby and knew they had seen us land.

## HIDES

We got into a hedge and hid. The Germans combed the field. Just as they were going to find us, I threw two hand grenades at them, and we started firing. Then we ran away, across another field, where we hid again in a hedge. It was pretty dark and the Germans did not come after us until next morning. Then they discovered us and began firing at us. We ran out of ammunition about noon and came out to surrender, as we were surrounded.

## CAPTURED

~~I thought they would fire at us as we walked across the field, but they didn't.~~ They took our equipment and marched us to an outpost with our hands up. Then we were passed on to another outpost, and finally to a CP where they asked us the number of our division, how many men there were in the plane, how many jumped, etc. They did not seem to know the 101st Div insignia. They put us against a wall and threatened us with machine guns.

## INTERPRETS

After an hour or so, they took us in a truck to a PW cage near St Pierre Eglise (3025). They asked if any of us spoke French, as none of them spoke English. I said I could, and they used me to interpret.

## IN A PW CAGE

I was in this cage 5 days. About 350 Americans were there, most of them from the 82nd AB Div. Some of them were badly wounded, but the Germans left them lying in the open field without treatment, sometimes for as long as 24 hours. About 50 or 60 men would be taken out each day and sent on to another camp. We got a little cabbage soup and some black bread to eat, and in the morning some so-called coffee. The guards ate not much better, though.

## STARTS FOR GERMANY

On the 10th, the rest of us marched over to Tourlaville (1823) where we were put in some barracks used for French Resistance prisoners. Next morning we were marched through the streets of Cherbourg ~~to show us off,~~ and were put into a train. We were told they were going to take us to Germany, but we got only as far as Bricquebec (1304), ~~when they made us get out,~~ probably because our planes had bombed the railroad.

## STRAFED

They marched us south on the road to La Haye du Puits. At about 1600 we had reached a small place called Besneville (1293) when 4 P\*47's came over. They looked us over carefully. We waved some pieces of yellow cloth we had, and thought they recognized us as American PW's, but suddenly they came back and strafed us. (see E&E report IS9(WEA)7/2 etc.)

## DISASTER

I noticed smoke coming from the guns of the first plane and jumped into the ditch. The second plane came and strafed the road a minute later, and the last two shot up the orchard alongside where a lot of prisoners and guards had run for shelter. Those in the front of the column got the worst of it, as they had no time to get away. Twenty-three were killed, and 47 wounded. The German 1st Sgt and several of his men were also killed.

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## DISASTER

I noticed smoke coming from the guns of the first plane and jumped into the ditch. The second plane came and strafed the road a minute later, and the last two shot up the orchard alongside where a lot of prisoners and guards had run for shelter. Those in the front of the column got the worst of it, as they had no time to get away. Twenty-three were killed, and 47 wounded. The German 1st Sgt and several of his men were also killed.

SECRET

SECRET

THE NIGHT  
AFTER

The wounded were taken to a farm nearby and <sup>at</sup> tended by German medics who came in a few minutes. The French people tore up their sheets to make bandages. We helped as much as we could, and then went to sleep in the barn. I was told one man got away in the confusion, ~~but I don't know who it was.~~

## GETS FOOD

We went on the next evening through La Haye and Lessay, and reached a small village called Crochere, near Muneville-le-Bingard (2065) about 2300 that night. We stopped at a farm and slept in the straw most of the time next day. We were to leave again at 1900. The Germans could not get food, and sent me <sup>to</sup> the farm house to ask for some, because I speak French. In the kitchen I met a Frenchman and asked him if he would help us to escape. He said he would meet us nearby after ~~it was~~ dark.

## HELPED BACK

We met the Frenchman on schedule. He found us a place to hide, and brought us some civilian clothes to wear. Later he put us in touch with the Resistance chief of the Region, and we were sent back to American-occupied territory. Mullins left first. I stayed on a few days longer to try to get more information, and to help others to get out.

( E + E — )

SECRET

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/9/42

List of all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defences, A.A. batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of Allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.)

No. 11011784 Rank Pfc Name Joseph H. Deziel

Date of interview 22 July 1944 (Escaped in France)

N.B.—It is of the utmost importance that when giving information on the above subjects you state clearly:—

- (1) Date, time and place where you obtained the information.
- (2) Was it the result of personal observation or a report by someone else ?
- (3) If not from personal observation who was the source (i.e., waiter, farm labourer, hearsay, cafe rumour, etc.), and how accurate do you estimate the source to be?

Evaluation of informant's credibility.

Key.

- 1.—Reliable. X
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

1. German ambulances going up to the front often carry ammunition and other troop supplies, although they are marked with the Red Cross. Informant heard this from many French people he talked with, and also from German guards who joked about it. During period 6 June-20 July it was common knowledge in Lessay - St Lo area.

Hearsay

2. Informant saw few gun positions around Muneville. Some camouflaged AA, little artillery heard or seen. Few Germans were in this region, except stragglers and deserters, who often came to farms where informant was hiding. These men were not always Polish or Russian troops, but included Germans as well.

Observation

3. Resistance chief in Blainville said Germans were about to withdraw south of Coutances. Four new divisions drawn from south would help to establish stronger defensive line there. The new line would run roughly from Montmartin (1650) to Bois de Souilles (4253).

Report

4. There were few mines, little wire, and no obstacles along beach to north of Blainville. For 1000 yds near the town the waterfront there was clear. A few AA guns were the sole defenses.

Observation

5. Germans use peasant wagons to send supplies and equipment up to lines during the day, as their own transport is strafed too often by our planes. ~~Germans in Lessay area are often out of ammunition, but infrequent American attacks in that sector have enabled them to recover.~~

Hearsay

6. About 20,000 refugees are in camps along the shore in Gouville-Blainville-Coutainville area. The Germans have some tanks and AA nearby, so this cannot be called an open area. French agreed that Americans were right in not agreeing to consider this an open area.

Observation and Hearsay

With the exception of items above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to G-2, FUSA

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/9/22

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

No. 11011784 Rank Pfc Name Joseph H. Deziel

Date of Interview 22 July 1944 (Escaped in France)

Our first helper at Crochere was a man about 45 called Albert L'Ainee. He is a farmer, with a wife and 6 children. He knows Camille Rigot of Muneville, and brought him to see us.

We stayed with Albert for three weeks. At first we hid in the hay in his barn, but after we got civilian clothes he let us come into the house. We were too well fed. Every few hours someone would arrive, generally from Muneville, bringing us something to eat or drink, as all the countryside knew we were there. As there was a food shortage, it seemed too bad to take so much, but we couldn't help it. Albert told us his family got only 50 grammes of bread per person each day. The Germans came through there once in a while, checking, but it was a small place and they did not bother with it much. As I spoke French and told them I was a refugee from Cherbourg I was in no danger, but Leon Mullins had to hide.

Camille Rigot used to be a sailor. He is about 23, blond, husky but short, about 5'5" in height. He told us he was in touch with the Resistance people and would get us out. One day after we had heard artillery in the distance he came and told us to pack up, as the Germans were making everyone leave.

We went to Montsurvent with him, met Sgts Bollag and Kersh (E&E report IS9(WEA)7/7 & 8) who had been hiding there, and went with them to M Quetier's in Blainville, on the coast. Quetier is a notary, and is in charge of relief for the refugees there. He is also head of the Resistance, but the Germans don't bother him because he takes care of the refugees.

We stayed with Quetier about a week after that. Bollag and Kersh went to stay with a M Poirier. We were very well treated. Mme Quetier and the eldest daughter, Evelyne, did everything to make us comfortable, and the house is just like America.

Mullins left on Sunday (16 July) by boat. I decided to stay on, as I could speak French, and M Quetier thought I might help others to get out, and meanwhile pick up some good information. On Wednesday we saw a plane come over and drop some leaflets near M Quetier's house. This was the signal arranged with Mullins and the others, and meant that they had gotten through safely.

On Friday M. Quetier told me that a prominent Resistance chief called M Lenoir was going through that night. The Germans were after him and he had to get out pretty quick. Quetier said he had arranged for me and Lt Redding, an American pilot (see E&E IS9(WEA)7/10) to leave with Lenoir. So that night we went up the coast with two guides, an old man about 60 who had a dog, and a younger one. The younger left us, but the old man brought us through after about 5 hrs walking over the tidal flats. He was very careful and made us flop down in the water when flares went up.

We got back to land at St Germain-Plage (1078) where we quickly contacted a patrol, and were taken to the CIC at 79th Div Hq. They turned us over to 9th Air Force, where they told us the newspaper men had just left, unfortunately.

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. ....

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Hearsay

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Observation and Hearsay

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~~SECRET~~THE NIGHT  
AFTER

The wounded were taken to a farm nearby and tended by German medics who came in a few minutes. The French people tore up their sheets to make bandages. We helped as much as we could, and then went to sleep in the barn. I was told one man got away in the confusion, but I don't know who it was.

## GETS FOOD

We went on the next evening through La Haye and Lessay, and reached a small village called Crochere, near Muneville-le-Bingard (2065) about 2500 that night. We stopped at a farm and slept in the straw most of the time next day. We were to leave again at 1900. The Germans could not get food, and sent me to the farm house to ask for some, because I speak French. In the kitchen I met a Frenchman and asked him if he would help us to escape. He said he would meet us nearby after it was dark.

## HELPED BACK

We met the Frenchman on schedule. He found us a place to hide, and brought us some civilian clothes to wear. Later he put us in touch with the Resistance chief of the Region, and we were sent back to American-occupied territory. Mullins left first. I stayed on a few days longer to try to get more information, and to help others to get out.

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

Capt ARNOLD - 9th AF

E. & E. REPORT No. 155 (133A) 7/2

**SECRET**  
**I.S.9 (WEA)**

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

EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.

E+E# 893

1. No. 11011784 Rank Pfc Name Joseph H. Dezial  
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 1st combat mission
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 377 Bchpt RA, 101 AB Div
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 101 AB Div 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) ammo carrier
7. Date of Birth 7 Feb 1912 8. Length of Service 5 yrs 4 mos
9. Peace time occupation Weaver 10. Private address 501 Front St  
Woonsocket, R.I.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtag
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? French, fluently

**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 TROOPS**

**WHO BALE OUT**

15. Post in Crew (Does not know names of others in plane)
  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 \_\_\_\_\_
- CO-PILOT \_\_\_\_\_
- NAVIGATOR \_\_\_\_\_
- BOMBARDIER \_\_\_\_\_
- RADIO OPERATOR \_\_\_\_\_
- TOP TURRET GUNNER \_\_\_\_\_
- BALL TURRET GUNNER \_\_\_\_\_
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) \_\_\_\_\_
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) \_\_\_\_\_
- TAIL GUNNER \_\_\_\_\_

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure C-47 troop carrier, left England 2200  
on 5 June 1944

18. Where and when did you come down? Vicinity of Ste Mere Eglise, 10 miles south

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left on field

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? had none

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

E&E Report No 9, Page No2

BALES OUT

We were hooked up and ready to go out when a burst of flak caught our plane. It slowed us down and we got out of formation. A minute later the pilot gave the order to bale out. I had three bundles of ammunition to push out before I could jump, and we had lost a lot of altitude before I got out, but I landed safely in a field, and out off my chute at once. The plane disappeared over a hill, flying low and on fire. I saw only one other chute come out. This was the Colonel's driver. (I don't know his name.) He landed close to me. I got my compass out, and we started to crawl away, as we heard Germans talking nearby and knew they had seen us land.

HIDES

We got into a hedge and hid. The Germans combed the field. Just as they were going to find us, I threw two hand grenades at them, and we started firing. Then we ran away, across another field, where we hid again in a hedge. It was pretty dark and the Germans did not come after us until next morning. Then they discovered us and began firing at us. We ran out of ammunition about noon and came out to surrender, as we were surrounded.

CAPTURED

I thought they would fire at us as we walked across the field, but they didn't. They took our equipment and marched us to an outpost with our hands up. Then we were passed on to another outpost, and finally to a CP where they asked us the number of our division, how many men there were in the plane, how many jumped, etc. They did not seem to know the 101st Div insignia. They put us against a wall and threatened us with machine guns.

INTERPRETS

After an hour or so, they took us in a truck to a PW cage near St Pierre Eglise (3025). They asked if any of us spoke French, as none of them spoke English. I said I could, and they used me to interpret.

IN A PW CAGE

I was in this cage 5 days. About 350 Americans were there, most of them from the 82nd AB Div. Some of them were badly wounded, but the Germans left them lying in the open field without treatment, sometimes for as long as 24 hours. About 50 or 60 men would be taken out each day and sent on to another camp. We got a little cabbage soup and some black bread to eat, and in the morning some so-called coffee. The guards ate not much better, though.

STARTS FOR GERMANY

On the 10th, the rest of us marched over to Touriaville (1823) where we were put in some barracks used for French Resistance prisoners. Next morning we were marched through the streets of Cherbourg to show us off, and were put into a train. We were told they were going to take us to Germany, but we got only as far as Bricquebec (1304) when they made us get out, probably because our planes had bombed the railroad.

STRAFED

They marched us south on the road to La Haye du Puits. At about 1600 we had reached a small place called Resneville (1293) when 4 P-47's came over. They looked us over carefully. We waved some pieces of yellow cloth we had, and thought they recognized us as American PW's, but suddenly they came back and strafed us. (see E&E report IS9(WEA)7/2 etc.)

DISASTER

I noticed smoke coming from the guns of the first plane and jumped into the ditch. The second plane came and strafed the road a minute later, and the last two shot up the orchard alongside where a lot of prisoners and guards had run for shelter. Those in the front of the column got the worst of it, as they had no time to get away. Twenty-three were killed, and 47 wounded. The German 1st Sgt and several of his men were also killed.

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL.

P.W. on 6 June.  
MIA on 11 June  
U.K. on 9 August

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 11011784 Rank Pfc

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Joseph H. DEZIEL

Unit 377 Prcht F.A., 101 st AB Div

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 22 July 19 44

and has signed a Security Certificate.

*Report to G-2 - as soon as possible  
in London*

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

*Theodore M. Purdy, Jr*  
Theodore M. Purdy, Jr  
Capt., CE for Major.

IMPORTANT.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

Already fully interrogated by G-2, Army  
and I.S.9 (WEA)

has been fully interrogated by an intelligence officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should not be re-interrogated.

*Report to G-2 - see memo on possible  
in London*  
*Theodore M. Purdy, Jr.*  
Capt., CE for  
Major

IMPORTANT

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

Distribution:

Capt. DEVEREUX, Ops ... 1  
Capt. ARNOLD ..... 1  
G-2, FUSA ..... 1 (less "C")  
G-2, TUSA ..... 1 ( " " )  
File ..... 1  
I.S. 9 (WEA) ..... 3  
PW & X Det., MIS ✓  
G-2 Div., SHAEF  
(less App. "C" & "D")  
File

348 # 893 (4 S. 519/WEA) 7/9/22

Regul - Reg. Sq. Sec. Bldg, 377 Para 7A  
101 BB DIV

MVA - 6 June 44  
UK - 9 Aug 44 (P)

If any further information is required concerning this report detailed application should be made to I.S.9 (WEA) G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F. giving the E and E Report No.