

SECRET

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

SECRET
By Authority of
AC of S, G-2
Initials... WSH
Date... 22 August 1944

22 August 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 863 (I.S. 9(WEA)7/19/63)
ESCAPE IN FRANCE

Charles H FRANKENFIELD, Pvt, 36564487
502 Parachute Infantry Regiment
101 Airborne Division

MLI: 6 June 1944
Arrived in UK:
6 August 1944

WALKS TOWARD
COAST

JOINS OTHER
PARATROOPERS

I came down near LESTRE at about 0122 hours, 6 June. Seventeen others in my plane jumped at the same time, but I never saw any of them again. I lay in the field until dawn with the intention of getting to the coast to join my unit. From dawn until about 0900 hours I walked toward the coast through the fields. A German passed me on a bicycle as I was walking down a little road. Later that morning I met some men from the 377th AB Artillery. I joined up with them, and we all moved toward the coast together. Four of us traveled until almost nightfall when we could see the coast. The Germans were just ahead of us, so we lay on top of a ridge and spent the night there.

CHASED BY
TWO GERMANS

FIRED ON

The next morning about 1100 we came to a road and could hear Germans just ahead of us. The two sergeants covered us while PEARSON and I went to see if we could get across. Just as we got up to the road a German saw us. He yelled "Kommen Sie hier!" I shot him, and he went down in the road. Two Jerries came running down the road then, and I tossed two grenades in their direction. PEARSON threw a couple of grenades at some Todt workers on the road, and then we both ran in the direction from which we had come. The two sergeants did not follow us. When we had gone about a mile a German came onto the road. When he was about 30 feet from us, we both shot him. We then cut off and had gone about a half mile when we were fired upon by two Germans hidden in a small wood. We returned the fire with the rifle we had picked up from the German we had killed, as all our own ammunition was gone. There were about five or six Germans chasing us now. We would stop at the hedgerows to return the German fire.

CAPTURED

TAKEN TO
VALOGNES

We crawled into a hold in a hedgerow and scattered brush over us. The Germans searched for us about an hour and a half. Then a German officer saw PEARSON's feet sticking out of the hole and fired at him. We threw hand grenades out of the hole, but without much effect. I tried to make a break for it but had to give up, for there were about ten Jerries all round me. I helped a German bandage PEARSON's wounds, and he was then taken on a motorcycle to VALOGNES. The Germans took me to a church in VALOGNES and then to a stockade near there. On 9 June we were all marched to CHERBOURG, except the wounded who were taken to some hospital. We left CHERBOURG on 10 June by train and were told we were going to BRICQUEBEC.

ESCAPE

On 13 June while being kept at a farm at MUNNEVILLE a Pvt BELLAVEAU, Pvt FORTNER and myself, all of the 502 Para Inf, just walked out of the camp. The German guards didn't watch us very closely.

RUN INTO
TODT WORKERS

After we had gone about 3/4 of a mile we met a Pvt BERNARD HARRISON of the 82nd AB Div and the crew chief of a C-47 who had escaped the same night. We all joined up together and decided to head for the west coast of the CHERBOURG peninsula. We met a Frenchman working in a field, and BELLAVEAU, who could speak French, got some food and cider from him. Then we bumped into some German Todt workers and all ran back the way we had come. BELLAVEAU and FORTNER got separated from us and that was the last I saw of them. HARRISON and the C-47 man and I traveled on until we got about 5 km from PIROU. There we holed up in a hedge for eight days on a French farm. The owner of the farm found us and brought us food and moved us to new hedgerows when the Germans came.

RECAPTURED

On the 8th day (about 6 July) a German S/Sgt walked by and saw us in the hedge. We were all dressed in civilian clothes the farmer had given us. In a short while the S/Sgt returned with five armed men and a dog, and we were taken to GEFOSSES where we were questioned by a German officer. From GEFOSSES we were taken to the outskirts of LESSAY where we were given a formal interrogation. The German officer tried to get us to tell the name of the Frenchman who helped us, but we told him that we had stolen our food and clothing. He asked us a lot of military questions, but we just gave him our name, ranks and serial numbers. He threatened us with being shot as spies because we were in civilian clothing. From LESSAY we were taken to another place on a farm where we were kept in a barn for four days along with eight other American prisoners. We stayed in this barn until 10 July when we were taken by truck to a convent. From that point on my story coincides with that of Lt QUINLAN, ESE Report No. 943.

Compiled by

IRVIN H LUITEN
Major, Inf

Approved by

W S HOLT
W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

"A" DISTRIBUTION
No Appendix "B"

APPENDIX "D"

- SUGGESTIONS:
1. Get in touch with the French priest. Almost any priest will help you, and most of them can speak a little English.
 2. Never ask where you can find a Resistance organization. You will never be given information, anyway. The organization will contact you.

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 36561487 Rank Pvt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) CHARLES H. FRANKENFIELD

Unit Co H, 502 Prcht, 101st AB Div

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 2 Aug 19 44

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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


IRVIN H. LITTEN
Major, Inf

IMPORTANT.

(Below does not apply)

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.

SECRET

Hg, IS9 (WEA)

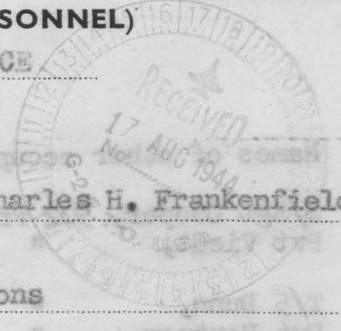
E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/19/63

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

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

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.



- 1. No. 36564487 Rank Pvt Name Charles H. Frankenfield
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) One mission, no decorations
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) Co H, 502 Procht
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 101 AB 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Platoon scout
- 7. Date of Birth 13 Sept 1923 8. Length of Service 1 year 8 mos
- 9. Peace time occupation Musician 10. Private address 1633 Lakeview Drive,
Sylvan Village, Pontiac, Mich
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Ident card, pay card
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

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
- 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 G-47, Newbury England, 2230 Hours, 5 June 44
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Near Lestre in Cherbourg peninsula, 0120 hours,
Date 5 June 1944
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Attached:
Appendix "B"
"C"
"D"
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

(OVER) SECRET

SECRET

I came down near ~~the little town of~~ Lestre (O-3509) at about 0122 hrs, 6 June. Seventeen others in my plane jumped at the same time, but I never saw any of them again.

WALKS TOWARD
COAST

~~As there wasn't a German or an American near me, I just lay in the field until dawn with the intention of getting to the coast to join my unit. From dawn until about 0900 hours I walked toward the coast through the fields. I saw only one German during that time. He passed me on a bicycle as I was walking down a little road. I was so surprised that he was gone before I even thought of knocking him off. He looked at me as he passed but just kept going around a bend in the road.~~

JOINS OTHER
PARATROOPERS

~~Later that morning I met some men from the 377th AB Artillery, who were also trying to find their unit. I joined up with them, and we all moved toward the coast together. In the group were a M/Sgt Hae, S/Sgt Van Deuzer and Pvt Ross E. Pearson. The four of us traveled until almost nightfall when we could see the coast. The Germans were just ahead of us, so we lay on top of a ridge and spent the night there.~~

7 JUNE
KILLS GERMAN WHEN
CROSSING ROAD

~~The next morning we started moving south toward our lines. At about 1100 we came to a road and could hear Germans just ahead of us. The two sergeants covered us while Pearson and I went crept up to the road to see if we could get across. Just as we got up to the road a German walked by and saw us. He yelled "Kommen, Sie hier!" when he turned to get away, I shot him, and he went down in the road.~~

CHASED BY
TWO GERMANS

~~Two ~~Ferries~~ came running down the road then, and I tossed two grenades in their direction. Pearson threw a couple of grenades at some Todt workers on the road, and then we both started to run in the direction from which we had come. The two sergeants did not follow us. We stopped and waited for them once, but they didn't show up. So we decided they had been captured. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Again we started south.~~

FIRED ON BY
GERMANS IN WOOD

~~When we had gone about a mile or so, I crossed a small road with Ross Pearson covering me. Just as I reached the other side, a German came onto the road. I was well hidden, and so was Ross. I whispered across to him that we would knock off the German. When he was about 30 feet from us, we both shot him.~~

PEARSON IS
WOUNDED
Captured

~~We then cut off to our right and had gone about a half mile when we were fired upon by two Germans hidden in a small wood. We returned the fire with the rifle we had picked up from the German we had killed, as all our own ammunition was gone. There were about five or six Germans chasing us now, and I think we wounded two of them and killed one. We were running just as fast as we could and would stop at the hedgerows to return the German fire.~~

~~When we came to a hole in ^{crawled into} one hedgerow, we crawled into this and scattered brush over us. The Germans searched for us about an hour and a half. Then a German officer saw Pearson's feet sticking out of the hole and fired at him with a ~~Luger~~. He wounded Pearson twice, once through one ankle and a second time through the calves of both legs. Both Pearson and I threw a ^{we threw} hand grenade ~~out of the hole, but it didn't seem to have much effect. I tried to make a break for it but had to give up, for there were about ten ~~Ferries~~ all round me.~~~~

TAKEN TO VALOGNES
AFTER CAPTURE

~~I helped a German ^{bandage} Pearson's wounds, and he was then taken on a motorcycle to Valognes. The Germans took me to a church in Valognes and then to a stockade near there. There were about 25 Americans PW'S in the place, and I saw the Germans bring in Van Deuzer and M/Sgt Hae.~~

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On 9 June we were all marched to Cherbourg, except the wounded who were taken to some hospital. We left Cherbourg on 10 June by train and were told we were going to Bricquebec. (See E&E report IS9(WFA)7/2, Arthur L. Mullings, for story of trip from Cherbourg to Munneville-le-Bingard).

being kept at a farm

~~13 JUNE~~
~~THREE WALK~~
~~AWAY FROM~~
~~GERMANS~~
~~ESCAPE~~

On June 13 while at Munneville a Pvt Bellaveau, Pvt Fortner and myself, all of the 502 Frecht Inf, just walked right out of the camp. The German guards didn't seem to care, and certainly didn't watch us very closely. We were not being kept behind barbed wire, but were just bivouaced on a farm.

After we had gone about 3/4 of a mile we met a Pvt Bernard Harrison of the 82nd AB Div and crew chief of a C-47 whose first name was ~~HALL~~. They had escaped the same night. We all joined up together and decided to head for the west coast of the Cherbourg peninsula. *who*

RUN INTO
TODT WORKERS

After going about two or three miles we met a Frenchman working in a field, and Bellaveau, who could speak French, got some food and cider from him. After we left the Frenchman we bumped into some German Todt workers and all ran back the way we had come. Bellaveau and Fortner got separated from us then, as they had gone a different way. That was the last I saw of them.

Harrison, the crew chief and I traveled on until we got about five kilometers from Pirou, near the W coast. There we holed up in a hedge for eight days on a French farm. The owner of the farm found us there on the sixth day. After that he brought us food, and moved us to new hedgerows when the Germans moved into that vicinity. *C-47 man, 5 km*

RECAPTURED
BY GERMANS

On the 8th day, a German S/Sgt walked by and saw us in the hedge. We were all dressed in civilian clothes the farmer had given us. In a short while the S/Sgt returned with five armed men and a dog, and we were taken to Gefosses (T1667) where we were questioned by a German officer. I believe this was about 6 July. From Gefosses we were taken to the outskirts of Lessay where we were given a formal interrogation. *(about 6 July) came.*

The German officer tried to get us to tell the name of the Frenchman who helped us, but we told him that we had stolen our food and clothing we were wearing. He asked us a lot of military questions, but we just gave him our name, ranks and serial numbers. He threatened us with being shot as spies because we were in civilian clothing.

From Lessay we were taken to another place on a farm where we were kept in a barn for four days along with eight other American prisoners. We stayed in this barn until 10 July when we were taken by truck to a convent. From that point on my story coincides with that of Lt Quintana (E&E report IS9(WFA)7/17). *943*

~~I missed the lectures on escape that were given by my unit while in England.~~

I should make the following suggestions to escapers:

1. Get in touch with the French *priest* curle. Almost any *priest* curle will help you, and most of them can speak a little English.

~~2. I shouldn't advise a man to go through the lines without a guide. The German lines are in depth and hard to get through.~~

~~3. I was told that there are a lot of German troops along the Spanish border, so I don't think it a good idea to try to escape through Spain.~~

Never ask where you can find a Resistance organization. You will never be given information, anyway. The organization will contact you.

SECRET

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/19/63

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

No. 36564487 Rank Pvt Name Charles H. Frankenfield

Date of Interview 2 August 1944

I don't know the full name of the French farmer who hid us and brought us food at Geffosses. His first name, however, was Emile. His farm is about three kilometers NNE of Geffosses. There was also a young man named Pierre at the farm who was very helpful to us.

TOP SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 36564487 Rank Private Military of C.M.I.C.W. 5000 1st

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) CHARLES H. FRANKENFIELD

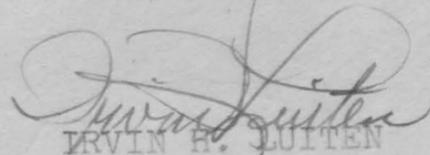
Unit XXX 502 Precht. Regt., H. Co., 101 AB Div.

has been fully/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 2 Aug 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should/should not/be re-interrogated.

The above enlisted man must report
to 63 Brook St., London Eng., upon arrival
in United Kingdom.



IRVIN H. LUITEN

Major. INF.

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

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

863

DATE: 8 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Andrew P. Duffy, 2nd Lt., AC, 01314112

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

Charles H. Frankenfield, Pvt., ASN 36564487

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.

Charles H. Frankenfield

Andrew P. Duffy

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as Charles H. Frankenfield, Pvt., ASN 36564487, 502nd Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, APO 472. previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

John E. Parish
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.
John E. Parish

CONFIDENTIAL

42 Dp.

E&E #8630I.S.9(WEA)7/19/63

Charles H FRANKENFIELD, Pvt, 36564487
502 Para Inf Regt, 101 AB Division

MIA: 6 June 1944
UK: 6 August 1944

*Prost
h*

~~Hold for DA Bureau on 5/20/63~~