

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

Joseph D. Coss 5/57 15070747
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

5 (No. of missions)

334th 95th
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: RENNES

Date mission in action: May 29 1943

Date arrived in UK: Sept 2

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT	<u>Cody U. Watson</u> (62)	} Returned	all men got out of plane. Radio man shot in arm & leg. I managed to fit this parachute and push him from the plane.
CO-PILOT	<u>Reynold P. Gasheri</u>		
NAVIGATOR	<u>Robert A. Titus</u>		
BOMBARDIER	<u>Rep Orme</u> - P/W		
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>Francis Moran</u> P/W		
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>Paul DeLoren</u> P/W		
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>Joseph Coss</u> - Narrator		
WAIST GUNNER	<u>Harry Rantz</u> - Switzerland R+D		
WAIST GUNNER	<u>John Brown</u> P/W		P/W
TAIL GUNNER	<u>Donald Heminger</u> P/W		P/W
	<u>Hefminger</u>		

Decorations: _____

Date of Birth: March 31, 1920

Private Address: Wellsburg West Virginia

Length of Service: 3 yrs 10 1/2 months

Job as Civilian: electric welder

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes

Were you wounded? Give details. no

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? no

Do you speak FRENCH? yes SPANISH? _____ GERMAN? yes ITALIAN? _____ OTHER LANGUAGE? _____

Did you have identity papers? none

Landed in field in coast N/W. of Rennes.

LIANDRE ROCHELLE, Poilly

A young man took me to a house. Titus ^{Maudie} was at this house. Germans came up on motorcycles. Titus & I went into forest. Next evening at 2:50 hrs. Then we were taken back to same house. Stayed that night. Then got civ. clothes & they bought us tickets to Paris. Rants was brought to this house that day.

Pierre
Bertie,
Melun
France

one ~~the~~ man ~~took~~ met us at station & rode with the 3 of us by train to Paris. In Paris this man took us to his mother's home in MELUN. There one day, then back to Paris & there we got a train & went to BESANCON & changed trains. The 3 of us got off at MORTEAU (near Swiss border) & went to a small village, walked into forest & waited for darkness, approached a lone house. The farmer couldn't help, ~~but~~ said he ~~knew a man who would~~. We walked to border & crossed bridge & walked 11 hours across mountains into Switzerland (LE LOCLE).

4 June
1944

Asked a young man where we were. He took us in to his house, fed us & kept us over night. Next day we walked all day towards Berne. 12 miles from Berne the police arrested us,

put us in jail for 2 days, then to Beni-jail for two days. Here they tried to interrogate us, but got only our names, ranks, + numbers. Put us into quarantine for 3 weeks, but Milit. Attaché came to see us + got us clothes. Then the Attaché sent us to VEVEY + put us in hotel. Here for 3 months. Then I lived in Zurich working for military attaché.

On 23 August I went to Geneva + met a Frenchman. There another Frenchman put me in hands of Railway man who put me in box car + road to ANNE MASSE where I went to hotel. I went to usquis chief here who gave me a taxi which took me to ANNECY where I was taken to a usquis collecting point for evaders in charge of Capt. Ball of American parachute troops. I was here two days. Then Lt. Hickman, Lt. Hale, ~~was~~ and several other American + British evaders (20 in all) went back to Grenoble HQ of 45 division 179 Bn. Reported to Capt. Dean. Then sent back to beachhead. Thence to a field near Marseilles where a C47 took us to Rome. Thence to Naples. General Eachus's H.Q. There I got orders to come to U.K. Thence to Casablanca 31 Aug.

Arrived U.K. 1 Sept.

interrogated
by Army
7 1/2

S/Sgt. Joseph D. Coss

1341

Sgt. Coss came down on 29 May 1943 on the coast NW of RENNES. A young man led ~~him~~ him into a house where Robt. A. Titus was already in hiding. This was the house of LIANDRE ROCHELLE at POILLEY (MANCHE). They stayed here two days and nights. On the second day Sgt. Rants was brought in; and on the third day PIERRE BERTIE of MELUN took the three Americans to the home of his parents in MELUN. After one day he took them to PARIS, bought them railway tickets, to a town on the Swiss border, gave them instructions, and put them on a train. By mistake they got off at MORTEAU and after trying in vain to get aid walked by themselves into SWITZERLAND at LOCHLE. Here a young man recognized them, fed them, gave them shelter for the night, and the next morning gave them directions to BERNE. They walked to within 12 miles of BERNE but were then arrested by the Swiss police. They were put into the jail at Berne and interrogated, and then they spent three weeks in quarantine. Coss was then ~~sent~~ taken to VEVEY by the American M.A. where he lived in a hotel for three months, thereafter living in Zurich where he worked for the M.A. On 23 August he went to Geneva and met a Frenchman who put him into the hands of a railway man. This man put him into a box-car in which he rode to ANNEMASSE. There he went to the FFI HQ and was given a taxi which took him to ANNECY where the American captain, Ball, put him into a collecting point for evaders. After two days he went with 20 British and American evaders to the HQ of 179 Bn., 45 Div., reporting to Capt. Dean. The party was taken from here to an airfield near MARSEILLE whence they flew to ROME and NAPLES. At Air Force HQ in NAPLES Coss was given orders to proceed to U.K. He arrived by air in CASABLANCA on 31 August and in U.K. 1 September.

RESTRICTED

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*.

2. 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.

GERTIFICATE

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 D. Cross Signed Joseph D. Cross
Rank S/sgt A. S. N. 15020747 Dated 3/9/44
Unit 95th Bn 334th Sgd. Witness _____

AG P BR HQ S05

122472

RESTRICTED

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

In area of Rennes, France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

Wing badly damaged from no. 4 engine to tip. Oxygen shot out.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

16,000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

yes. Radio operator wounded

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

all of them.

yes

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

yes

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Prisoner. All men alive. 5 taken as prisoners. 5 escaped to various places.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

Not to my knowledge

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

no.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reasons for his opinion?

None.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

S/3rd Lt Joseph Cross

Unit:-

95th Gp. 334 Sgl.

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training 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? *yes.*
- b. If not, why? *_____ it.*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights". *St Titus had a deep cut on chin, used iodine & tape. Horlicks tablets.*
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *yes.*
- Milk (tube). *no.*
- Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).
- Halazone tablets (water purifier). *no.*
- Matches. *yes*
- Adhesive tape. *yes for cut on St Titus*
- Chewing gum. *no*
- Water bottle. *no*
- Compass. *yes, in mountains of Suisse: border*
- Sewing kit. *no*
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *no*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *_____*
- f. 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*
- State color of stripes and letters. *Green*
- If 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?

Maps. Which ones? *France*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *French - all*

How did you spend the money? *for Railroad fare*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. ~~maps~~

Compass. *military attaches in switz.*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Surplus currency. *none*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *no*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *no*
If so, how many? _____

b. Did you use them? *no*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? _____
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. _____

b. Did you find the lectures of value? _____

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

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

I heard rumors from different french that Germany was planning to use flying gas bomb. They didnot know any details.

Talk with "Mackey" who seems to be well organized but in need of ^{heavier} _A equipment.