

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

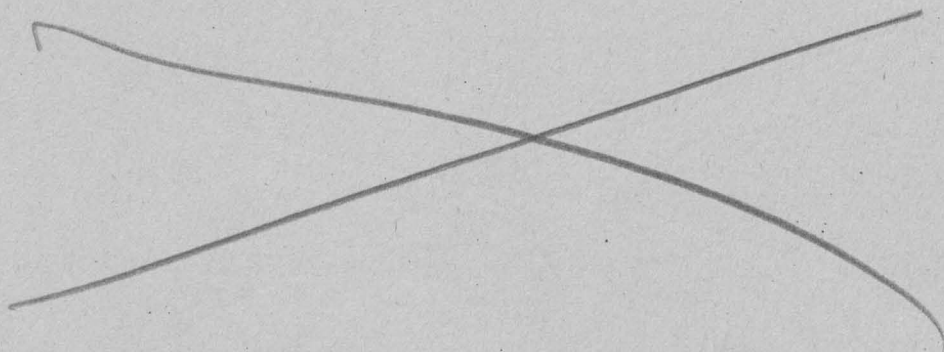
HIGGINS CHARLES - S/ST. 31145913  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

29  
SEPT. 30, 44.  
(Date)

41776 Sd. 95TH. DAP.  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER



Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
Nov. 30, 1943 AT 14.00 O'CLOCK ON THE GERMAN-DUTCH BORDER

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
NUMBER THREE ENGINE ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?  
6000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
NO

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
ALL CREW MEMBERS BAILED OUT.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
YES ALL BUT THE PILOT - NAVIGATOR AND WAIST GUNNER

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.  
NO

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

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by 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 reason for his opinion?  
THE SWISS CONSULATE HAD PILOT AND WAIST GUNNER LISTED AS PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY.

S/Sgt Charles J HIGGINS  
31145973  
412 Sq, 95 B Gp

30 Sept 44

I bailed out over Holland ~~and~~ at about 1400 ~~hr~~ on 30 November 43 I hid that day, then went to a hospital about 15 miles SW of ROERMOND. I stayed here a few hours. The doctor was a woman whose father had been Dutch and her mother Burmese. Then I ~~went to ROERMOND.~~

I stayed here 4 or 5 days with a Dutch boy. I was told to say that I had been helped by the man with the little red wagon. The police and Belgian border patrol aided in getting me across the border to MEISPELT. <sup>several days later</sup> I went to ANTWERP and spent ~~several days~~ with MAICELLE MAAS, the proprietor of the Café de Swan.

Then I went with a guide to BRUXELLES. I was taken to the home of a British Intelligence officer, HENRY MACA. His father was captured by the Gestapo while I was there. His sister GERMAINE always accompanied evaders when they moved from one hiding place to another.

I spent 10 days with the former editor of a ~~newspaper~~ <sup>subversive</sup> newspaper ~~in the~~ in the MEISE (MEYSSEL?) district. <sup>she was</sup> M ANDRE VEIHEYDEN ~~who~~ had a large villa. There was his wife and mother-in-law. His father-in-law had been a food administrator.

Then I returned to ~~the~~ MACA's home for 10 days. From there I went to the home of another intelligence worker. I spent 4 or 5 days with a lady and her Jewish maid. ~~Macaxixheardthatxaxerawxmemberxxxxx McDERMOTTxhadxbeenxarrestedxbyxthaxGestapox~~ Then I went with a crew-member, McDERMOTT, and an RCAF evader named JOE. We were taken to the home of a lady whose son is a member of the US Marines. She was from Luxembourg and her husband was an American. They were divorced. She lived in the tallest building in BRUXELLES, just opposite the Gestapo ~~headquarters~~ building.

We <sup>also</sup> stayed with Mrs PALMER 4 or 5 days. She was working. Her sister SUZANNE, who was single, also worked. We left McDERMOTT here and moved to southern Belgium. We were told that we were going to fly out, but ~~then~~ the Gestapo captured the underground chief with papers on him and as a result 3 American airmen were said to have been shot.

We gathered in MACA's room at the hotel and <sup>thought and</sup> decided to hide for several days until a new route could be arranged. We went to CHARLEROI where we were met by a monk.

There were 7 of us -- 2 Yugoslavs, 2 Belgians, a Pole, Sgt GILCREASE (E&E#2340) and I. When we were told that we would be kept there for 3 months, GILCREASE and I left ~~xxxxxxx~~ for Switzerland. On 5 March, we took the train to the last town before the French border. We had been told there was barbed wire, mines, etc., but we stopped a man and boy on the road. They told us where the border was and changed our money for us. We walked ~~across~~ into FUMAY without any trouble.

In FUMAY we contacted a terrorist organization. They <sup>agreed</sup> arranged to take us through to Switzerland if we would tell the American Legation about dropping supplies to this organization. We were taken through PARIS on the train and got off at BELFORT. There we went across the border with a group of smugglers. We entered Switzerland on 21 March. The police took us to BERN, then to OLTEN for a quarantine period.

At the end of that time, we were allowed to go to the American Legation in BERNE. We stayed in BERN 6 days before going to KLOSTERS. After 2 weeks, we were sent to GLION. We remained there until 14 September when we were taken to ANNECY. We were flown back to the UK on 29 Sept.



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

HIGGINS CHARLES J. S/SGT 31145973

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Solengin

Date mission in action: NOV 30, 42

SEVEN (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: SEPT 5, 43

412th 95th  
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW:	(Please list names next to positions)	Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.
PILOT	<u>STENSLER 2nd LT. PW - Berne Consulate</u>	
CO-PILOT	<u>DILCREST 2nd Lt. IN AMERICA - WROTE</u>	
NAVIGATOR	<u>LOHMANN 2ND LT. NO NEWS</u>	
BOMBARDIER	<u>GREGORY 2nd Lt. RETURNED TO AMERICA - WROTE</u>	
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>DOETLEID SGT. NO NEWS</u>	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>DILCREASE C/SGT. - RTD UK with me</u>	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>APPLEBY S/SGT. NO NEWS</u>	
WAIST GUNNER	<u>KATT SGT. PW.</u>	
WAIST GUNNER	<u>McDERMOTT S/SGT. NO NEWS</u>	
TAIL GUNNER	<u>HIGGINS S/SGT. -</u>	

Decorations: AIR MEDAL

Date of Birth: JUNE 18, 1916

Private Address: 201 STILLWATER AVE. OLD TOWN, MAINE, U.S.A.

Length of Service: 2 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: CLERK

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

95 BGL 0730

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? A LITTLE SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? YES

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

Switzerland - Amer. Legation  
Annecy - Col. Hull

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

Col. Hull

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

No

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

Yes 30/9/44

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. Annecy 29 Sept 44

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" 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 DO NOT RECOLLECT ANY VITAL MILITARY  
INFORMATION.



SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

HIGGINS

Unit:-

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? *NO.*
- b. If not, why? *BOX FELL OUT OF POCKET WHEN PARACHUTE OPENED.*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- 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?

*NO*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes, Lost in descent.*  
State color of stripes and letters.  
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse?

(over)

LOST IN DESCENT IN CHUTE

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass,

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

NO

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? YES  
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them? NO

5. LECTURES

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

IN ENGLAND AND STATES BY S-2 OFFICERS

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

YES

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

NO

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-989 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) HIGGINS CHARLES J.  
Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 3145973  
Unit 417 CH Sgd. 95 CH. BRP.

Signed Charles J. Higgins  
Dated September 30, 1944.  
Witness Robert J. Mann Capt. 2100

RESTRICTED



R+E  
2341

Higgins CHARLES J. S/Sgt. 31145913 95TH GP. 412 Sgd. 8th AF  
Name Rank & Serial No. Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: NOV. 30, 1943 ON THE DUTCH-GERMAN BORDER  
Date & Approximate Location.

Experiences after being shot down: CROSSED HOLLAND  
and BELGIUM WITH THE HELP OF ORGANIZATION,  
LEFT ORGANIZATION IN BELGIUM and  
MADE MY WAY TO SWITZERLAND.

Status: Escaper - Evader - Internee.

Date of Escape: MARCH 21, 1944.

Date of Arrival at <sup>ANNECY</sup> MAAF: 9-13-44.

Physical Condition: Good

REMARKS: NOT ENOUGH FREEDOM

Home Address: 201 STILLWATER AVE. OLD TOWN, MAINE

Departed MAAF Hq.: \_\_\_\_\_