

REF # 1798
C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-687896 Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) O'BOYLE, DAVID W. JR.

Unit 335 Sqd, 95th B. G. P.

has been fully/briefly interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on Sept. 9 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Joseph A. Birdwell
1st Lt. A.C.

Major

IMPORTANT:

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

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 JOSEPH A. BIRDWELL
 1st Lt., AC Major

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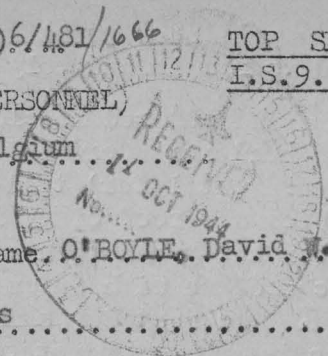
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 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks
Street, London.

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

EVASION CAPTURED/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) Belgium

For all Personnel.



- 1. No. 0-687896 Rank 2d Lt. Name O'ROYLE, David W. Jr.
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 5 missions
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details Machine gun bullet in left buttock
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 335 Sq.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 95 B. GP. 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) Nav.
- 7. Date of Birth 13 Nov. 1920 8. Length of Service 5 yrs.
- 9. Peace time occupation Sales & Advert. 10. Private address 7554 Hoover St.
St. Louis, Mo.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? dog tags
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? French

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 Navigator
- 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 Mowers, C.H. Heard he was dead
- CO-PILOT Roderick, G.F. Unknown
- NAVIGATOR Narrator
- BOMBARDIER Dechambre, G.P. Saved Evaded 1799
- RADIO OPERATOR Griffin Unknown
- TOP TURRET GUNNER Gebert "
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Greech "
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) Bialas Heard he was safe
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) Torok " " " "
- TAIL GUNNER Warren Unknown
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17G Horum 24 Jan 44, 8:15
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Near Court St. Etienne 1100
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Farmers took it.
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)
Date 9 Sep 1944

Attached:
Appendix "B"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No. 5

Joseph A. Birdwell
JOSEPH A. BIRDWELL
1st Lt., AC

Major

Disposal: Returned to UK

DISTRIBUTION:
Hq. I.S.9(WEA) 2
12 Army Group 2 (less C)
9th AF 1 "

Fell near Court St Etienne, Belgium. 24 Jan 1944 on a hill next to a wood.
Had to run immediately because of a gendarme. Hid several hours until a young boy
came and offered me clothes and food. I slept in a hay stack for the night, walked
to Charleroi where I hid in woods. It rained and I went to a farm, a false patriot
(found out later) told me he could get me to England. and took my money, wings and
photos as proof of my identity and to make false papers. He came back three days
later but I had been warned a few minutes before and escaped through a window.
He chased me with a gun and cornered me in a walled garden and I was forced to kill
him. The next day a man named Cain took me to another part of Charleroi and tried to
locate and organization. After living at two more places whose addresses I don't
know I was brought to Brussels where I was again interrogated. I then went to No. 2
Ave Aristide Briand, where I lived with Mrs. A. Vermeulen. Later taken to another
home where I awaited liberation. Mr. and Mrs. Godefroid.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)6/481//666

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

No. 0-687896 Rank 2d Lt. Name O'BOYLE, David W. Jr.

Date of Interview 9 sep 1944

19 Feb. I was taken to the home of Mrs. Anna Vermeulen, No. 2 Ave. Aristide Briand where I remained until 13 June. I was then taken to the home of Mr & Mrs. GODEFROID 93 Ave de l'Opale there I awaited liberation.

RESTRICTED

1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing

Name (Print) David W. O'Boyle Jr Signed David W. O'Boyle Jr G-2

Rank 2nd Lt A.S.N. 0-687896 Dated..... Place.....

Unit 335th Sq 95th Group Witness.....

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 Forces;
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.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S.9 (WILL) PERSONNEL

Sept 10, 1944
(Date)

O'Boyle David W. Jr 2nd Lt 0-687896
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Frankfurt 5
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: JAN 24 '44

Returned to UK: Sept 9, 1944

335 Sq 95th Group
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT Mowers thought dead
CO-PILOT Roderick landed safely
NAVIGATOR O'Boyle present
BOMBARDIER Dechambre present
RADIO OPERATOR Griffin ?
TOP TURRET GUNNER Gebert seen to jump
BALL TURRET GUNNER Creech ?
WAIST GUNNER Bialas heard to be wounded but with patriots
WAIST GUNNER Torok ?
TAIL GUNNER Warren ?

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. Jan 24 1944 NEAR

Court St Etienne Belg
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

No 1 Eng. was out No 2 on fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 14000'

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? Alot thought dead
Bomb. + Nav both wounded

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? People on ground
Said 7 got out Bomb + Nav. (both here) co-pilot, Top turr. gunner

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?
Not 'til last wk when I met Bombardier

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. Torok said to be with patriots

(over)

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

No

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?

At least 7 safe + one body in plane - all heard on ground from various sources.

Were you wounded? *yes right buttock*

Were you in German hands? *No*

Did you kill any Germans in escaping? *One*

Have you previously given the names of your helpers? *Yes*

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

What security briefing were you given?

in Paris

Read + signed security sheet

What souvenirs do you still possess? *None*

Home address. *7554 Hoover St., St. Louis, Mo*

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

3

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

2