

S E C R E T

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 (WEA) PERSONNEL

Sept. 6-44  
(Date)

Charles H. Strackbine S/Sgt. 37319876  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Berlin (2)  
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Mar. 4-44

Returned to UK: Sept. 1-44

95th B. Grp. 335th Sqdn.  
(Unit)

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

PILOT 2nd Lt. Rodney P. Roehm - 07473215 <sup>no</sup> P/W by Gestapo on Mar. 5th

CO-PILOT 2nd Lt. David F. Walter - 0755615 <sup>no</sup> - P/W - killed by high tension wires when jumping.

NAVIGATOR 2nd Lt. Jonathan (nmi) Pearson - 1063 <sup>no</sup>

BOMBARDIER 2nd Lt. Donald R. Egan - 0-682089 <sup>no</sup> P/W.

RADIO OPERATOR Cpl. Thomas L. Yankus - 1064

TOP TURRET GUNNER (narrator)

BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. Eugene S. Purnell - 39031820 <sup>no</sup> - P/W

WAIIST GUNNER S/Sgt. John P. Wasp, 32604608 <sup>no</sup> - KIA

WAIIST GUNNER S/Sgt. Floyd C. Nouillet, 33305496 <sup>no</sup> - MIA - captured by Germans about Aug. 25th

TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. Emory T. Kesterson, 38046850 <sup>no</sup> - P/W

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. Mar. 4 - South of St. Quentin about 10 miles.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Tokio tanks shot out by Flak - it was not on fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 15,000'

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 bailed out. ALL chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? I don't know I didn't see it crash

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Yes, Sgt. Nouillet.

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.

(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.

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

Probably Prisoners, because I think most of the crew landed in Belgium

Were you wounded? Twisted leg + foot.  
Yes -

Were you in German hands? No.

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

No

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

Yes

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

Berto Zanni - Beaumont-en-Beine. Spoke a little English + was always helpful in giving me directions among a million other favors.

What security briefing were you given?

Not to speak of methods + people who helped me to evade Germans.

What souvenirs do you still possess?

Home address. 40 Joe Buschkamp, Crofton, Nebraska

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

S/sgt. Floyd C. Noullet  
Lt. Rodney P. Roehm  
W/O - Gordon Pallet (British)

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

None that I know of at the present time.

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.

DISTRIBUTION:

I.S. 9 (WEA) Hq.....3  
P/W & X Det. MIS ✓  
~~G-2 Div., SHAFF~~  
~~(Less app. "C" & "D")~~  
File

C O N F I D E N T I A L

REF# 1586

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 37319876

Rank S/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

CHARLES A. STRACKBINE

Unit

335<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)

on 5 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

*Robert Bacon*  
~~Major~~ 2/4, AC.

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.

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/XXXXXX FROM (Name of Country)....France.....

For all Personnel.

1. No. 37319876..... Rank.. S/Sgt ..(temp)..... Name.. Charles A. Strackbine  
(U.S. Acting, Temp. or T/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions)..... 2 Missions.....
3. Were you wounded? Give details... Sprained ankle from chute landing.....
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force).. 95th Grp, 335th Sqdn.....
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force).. 95 B. Grp ..G. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rsn., etc.).. Top Turret
7. Date of Birth... 9 March 19..... 8. Length of Service.. 1 yr. 10 mos....
9. Peace time occupation... Musician..... 10. Private address. % Joe. Buschkamp..  
Crofton, Nebr.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photographs? Dog Tags, E & E.....  
photos
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 ATR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BAILE OUT.

15. Post in Crew..... Top Turret Gunner.....
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. 2d Lt. Rodney P. Roehm--Told by French captured by Gestapo. 5 Mar  
CO-PILOT. 2d Lt David E. Walters--Killed by bailing out on electric wires  
NAVIGATOR. 2d Lt Jonathon Pearson--unknown  
BOMBARDIER. 2d Lt Donald R. Egan--bailed out  
RADIO OPERATOR. Cpl. Thomas L. Yankus--bailed out  
TOP TURRET GUNNER .. Narrator.....  
BALL TURRET GUNNER. S/Sgt. Eugene S. Purnell--bailed out.  
WAIST GUNNER (R.) S/Sgt John R. Wesp--Bailed out  
WAIST GUNNER (L.) S/Sgt Floyd C. Noullet--captured by Germans 20 Aug...  
TAIL GUNNER. S/Sgt Emory T. Kesterson-- told by Fr in Vilquier (St Quer  
bailed out  
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure..... B-17G, Norwich., Eng  
4 March 44, 0600  
18. Where and when did you come down?... 4. March one K. from Le. Chateau (SE. of  
Cambrai  
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?.....  
Rolled it up and covered it with dirt.  
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?.. Plane crashed and burned..

Interview by I.S.9. (WEA)

Date... 5 September 44.....

I grade this evasion No. 5.

Attached:

- Appendix "EX"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "X"

Robert Bacon

ROBERT BACON

2d Lt, AC

KXXX

Disposal: Returned to unit....

Charles A. Strackbine

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq IS9(WEA)-----	3	
12th Army Group-----	2	(less C)
G-2, FUSA-----	1	"
G-2, TUSA-----	1	"
9th AF-----	1	"

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)6/23/650

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

No. 37319876 ..... Rank S/Sgt ..... Name Charles A. Strackbine .....

Date of Interview 5 September 44 .....

---

Beaumont-en-Beine (Aisne)

Edward Pouchon

FILE# 1586

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 37319876 Rank S/Sgt  
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) CHARLES A. STRACKBINE  
Unit 335<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.  
has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)  
on 5 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate.  
He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

*Robert H. Bacon*  
~~Major~~ 1/Lt, Ac.

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

1961

CONFIDENTIAL

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 883.6 (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 supercedes letter, AG 883.6 (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.

### GERTIFIGATE

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) Strackbine, Charles A. Signed Charles A. Strackbine  
Rank S/sgt. A. S. N. 39319876 Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group 335<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sqn. Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED