

Secret.

13 August 1944

E & E Report No. I.S. 9(WEA)/8/50/97

Lt Pickett

~~KNOCKED OUT,~~
~~INTERROGATED~~
CAPTURED
15 JULY

On July 14th I was moving forward helping to straighten out our line when I was shot at by a German. My carbine mis-fired and I was forced to jump into a hole where I remained from 1800 hrs to 2400 hrs. As I was trying to move across an open field to return to our own lines I was knocked out by the concussion from an exploding shell. When I awoke it was 0500 hrs. I attempted to get up but I found that the shell concussion had paralyzed my legs with the result that I lay there until about 1800. At ^{when} that time the German first aid men came out under the Red Cross flag bringing me in with their own wounded.

INTERROGATION

MEDICAL TREAT-
MENT, 16 JULY

ADDITIONAL ~~INTER~~
INTERROGATION

I was taken to the battalion CP where an attempt was made to interrogate me; I refused to answer their questions and occasionally told the interrogator to go to Hell. Having decided to give up on me, they took me to an aid station where I was well treated. From here I was taken in a wagon composed almost entirely of German prisoners wounded to a hospital five miles back. On the way we were taken to a regimental interrogation set-up where I spent two hours. Again the usual questions. To impress me the Germans produced a book with a rather complete U/S Order of Battle, including regiments in the various divisions, etc. Much to my surprise their data seemed rather complete. The interrogator seemed anxious to talk about the robot planes. He said that the only reason the Germans were using them was in retaliation for the bombing of Berlin; He said that we were bombing nothing but the East of Berlin, a residential district, while all the industry was in the West section.

MORTAIN
HOSPITAL

At the conclusion of this ~~inter~~ ^{my} interrogation, I was taken back to the hospital. It was now 2100 hrs. A little while later I was taken to the hospital at MORTAIN where there was an American T/5, JACK GIBSON, (EVE #947) who had volunteered to stay with the hospital and attend to our wounded. He was doing a splendid job. At this hospital there were a great many Luftwaffe personnel serving as medical attendants, and general handymen. I spoke to a few who told me that they had no planes nor any gasoline.

RENNES HOSPI-
TAL AND CAMP
18 JULY

About 1800 on the evening of the 18th July I was moved to the hospital at Rennes. Here, as soon as I was well, in company with other men who had recovered, I was marched through the town to the prison camp, Stalag 221. We were all given a thorough search. Luckily I was able to hide my money, some 500 Francs. I was given back my AGO Card, my dog tags, and my Form 81. After the search all the officers were given two blankets, a mess pan, and a spoon. After I had been here a while, I observed that several attempts to tunnel had been begun, but were given up when it was learned that we were going to move. While here I joined forces with Lt. J.G. EGAN, and from here on my story closely parallels his. (See I.S. 9(WEA)/8/49.)

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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. 0-1290897 Rank 1st Lt Name VERNON W PICKETT
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) None
3. Were you wounded? Give details No, but knocked out by shell concussion
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) Hq Co., 3rd Bn., 137th Inf Regt., 35th Div
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 35th Div 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Company commander
7. Date of Birth 12 August 1912 8. Length of Service 3 Yrs., 2 Mos
9. Peace time occupation Salesman 10. Private address 207 Payne St., Pineville, Louisiana
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? AGO Card, Dog tags
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 //
18. Where and when did you come down? Captured 3-4 Kms N of St Lo
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? //
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? //

Secret

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G-2 TUSA1 (" ")

File1

Hq., I.S. 9 (WEA) ...3

P/W & X Det. MIS ✓

G-2 Div., SHAET

(Less App. "C" & "D")

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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.