

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

2805

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 36990610 Rank Pvt. NAME (print) ROUSSEAU, Charles F.

CLAIMS ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOWING UNIT Co. "A", 137th Inf. Regt., 35th Div.

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of
I.S. 9 (WEA) on 7 January 1944, has signed a Security

Certificate, and is not considered suspect.

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

Security reasons ~~do~~/do not/ exist preventing his return to combat
duty.

He was a PW/~~Evader~~/ for a period of 1 days/.

Cameron R. Blair
1/5 Dec.

IMPORTANT:

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

SECRET

E. & T. ELFORM No. I.S.9(WEA)/8/569/2641

SECRET
I.S.9(WEA)

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

~~XXXXXX~~/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) BELGIUM

For all Personnel.

1. No. 36990610 Rank Pvt. Name Charles F. ROUSSEAU
(U.S.A. Acting, Temp. or A/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F. No. of missions) No
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) Co. "A", 137th Inf. Regt.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 35th Div. 6. Job. (Pl. Cad., Rfa., etc.) Rifleman
7. Date of Birth 29 April 1920 8. Length of Service 6 1/2 mos.
9. Peace time occupation Tool Maker 10. Private address 1046 Hampton Rd.
Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags
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.) CAPTURED: East of VILLERS - la-BONNE EAU, BELGIUM, (approx.
P 576505, GSGS 4336, Sheet 17) at 1230 hrs. 4 Jan. '45.
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER.
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.
18. Where and when did you come down?
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)/8
Date 7 Jan. 1945

Attached:

Appendix "B"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

I grade this escape 3

Cameron J. LaClair, Jr.
CAMERON J. LaCLAIR, JR.
1st Lt AC

Disposal: Returned to 17th Repl. Depot.

Major

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq I.S.9(WEA).....	3
G-2 TUSA.....	1
A-2 9th A.F.....	1
File.....	1
	5

Note: Map reference: GSGS 4336, Sheet 17.

I was taken prisoner slightly E of VILLERS-la-BONNE EAU, BELGIUM (approx. P 576505) at approx. 1230 hrs., 4 Jan. 1945. My company, attacking positions on a hill, had suffered fairly heavy casualties from an artillery barrage. My sergeant asked me to help evacuate one of the wounded. While wandering around in the woods trying to find this man, actually I had stopped to get my bearings, I felt something cold in my back and found myself turning around to face a German who had me covered with a rifle.

He took my rifle, took the ammunition out, slung it over his shoulder and marched me back through some dense woods to a concentration of perhaps 50 Germans. Here I was thoroughly searched, having my watch, pen, and money taken from me and not returned. Shortly after the search I was taken to a German officer whom I saluted. He spoke English, somewhat broken, but completely understandable, and began to question me. He asked me my name, rank, and serial number, put this all in a little book, and began a series of other questions. He seemed most interested in our armor, where it was, how much of it there was. He questioned me also about all the various units there were in the area, how many, what types, what strength, what casualties, how supplied, but constantly coming back to the questions on the armor. During the questioning the interrogator became angry, screamed at me, pushed me around but did not really physically mistreat me. My answer to all his questions, except of course, the name, rank, and serial number ones, was, "I'm sorry sir".

When the interrogator finished with me at about 1500 hrs., I was moved over to a spot with four other American prisoners -- all of us being forbidden to converse with each other. Here I remained the rest of the day until after dark, perhaps 2000 hrs, when we were moved through the woods, the five of us, with two guards, each armed with a Schmeiser. As we were moving through these thick woods I noticed an open break in the woods just ahead of me. I dived for it, keeping low, and ran like hell. They fired at me but didn't even come close. I kept running until I got to a defiladed area where I got down on my belly and began to crawl in the direction of our artillery fire which was laying down quite a barrage. Soon I got up and began to run again, but was too tired to push on much further. I found a concealed place to rest a while, sleeping there a few hours. I awakened to find it beginning to get light so I began to move again. This time I found a place with a pile of GI overcoats, foxholes with blankets in them, and some K rations. Still terribly tired, I got in a foxhole, covered myself with blankets, and went to sleep. When I awakened it was bright daylight and still no one had appeared, so I began making my way back along a telephone wire, which was hooked up to a phone in one of the foxholes. After about two hours I encountered some men on a wire crew who gave me some directions. Thus I returned to American control.

Narrator not helped by inhabitants.

Narrator briefed by an officer of I.S.9(WEA) at 14th Repl. Depot, 15 Dec. 1944.

2805

Charles F ROUSSEAU, Pvt, 36990620 (EXP(USA)8/569/262.)
35 Division
7 January 1945

No "G" information available.

Compiled by

CHARLES J LACLAIR, JR
1st Lt, AG