

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

E & E REPORT NO. 181  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Oct Nov. 4, 1943  
(Date)

Norman D. KREITENSTEIN, S/Sgt, 35114035  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
351 100  
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 23  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 yr.  
HOME ADDRESS: 212 Bessie Ave.  
Evansville, Indiana

MIA: 3 September 1943  
Arrived in Spain: Oct. 21, 1943  
Arrived in Gibraltar: Oct. 29, 1943  
Arrived in UK: Nov. 3, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-729327 1st Lt Victor V. FIENUP	MIA	
CO-PILOT	0-729652 1st Lt Paul (NMI) PASCAL	<del>MIA</del> 278	
NAVIGATOR	0-798016 2d Lt Eugene V. MULHOLLAND	<del>MIA</del> 397	
BOMBARDIER	0-730766 2d Lt Blanton BARNES	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	6947122 T/Sgt Charles F. WRIGHT	MIA	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	39385869 T/Sgt Roy A. EVENSON	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	35114035 S/Sgt Norman D. KREITENSTEIN	NARRATOR	
WAIST GUNNER	12032702 Sgt Marvin (NMI) MILLER	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	35478066 S/Sgt Charles G. DANIELS	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	39606626 S/Sgt Robert H. BROWN	MIA	P.W.

Were you wounded?

SEPT 3 1943

We left THORPE ABBOTS about 0600 hours 3 September 1943 to bomb an aircraft depot in PARIS, France. Due to the weather our whole group went for the secondary target which was an airfield near PARIS.

FIGHTERS  
ATTACK

On approaching the target we were attacked by fighters and there were several hits back near the waist. Sgt BROWN was wounded and right after this we were also hit by flak. Our navigator gave the order to bale out. I got up out of the ball turret and had a great deal of trouble getting out of it as it had been hit and at the time we were in a steep dive. The radio operator, Sgt WRIGHT, and I tried to get out of the waist door. It had been hit by flak and we could not open it.

DAMAGE  
TO  
PLANE

At this time Sgt WRIGHT fell to the floor and I noticed one of the waist gunners whom I do not believe had been hit was sitting on the floor. The other waist gunner, who had been wounded, came back and fell on top of me. I tried to get him off as the plane was on fire and the fire was coming back towards us. I was shoving against the side of the fuselage when all of a sudden, the whole side fell off and the wounded waist gunner and I went out all tangled up together. Fortunately we both had our chutes on. We separated in the air and I immediately pulled my rip cord.

As the chute opened my shoes came off. I had left the plane at about 18,000 feet. After my chute opened I saw either three or four other chutes. I also saw our plane explode in the air.

INITIAL  
EVASION

I landed in an open field and in landing hit the back of my head which dazed me. I noticed an enemy plane buzzing me, so I laid still. After he left I took off my chute and hid it along with my helmet and heated gloves

under some new-mown hay. I then went into a field where I had seen one of our chutes come down. When I got close to it I saw that it was Sgt BROWN but I also saw some German soldiers running toward him. So I crawled back in a thicket and hid. I saw them ~~pick him up and carry him away.~~ <sup>Sgt BROWN</sup> I had heard that the Germans would not come into the woods after you, so I crawled back a short distance and went to sleep. I stayed there until about 1900 hours.

HELP FROM  
LABORERS

I then started walking. First, however, I opened my perse, looked at the maps and took out the compass. I had left my escape kit in the plane. As I started to walk away I saw a man in a field, so I went over to the edge of the woods and whistled. He came over to me. I explained who I was and asked for help. He pointed to a little village and said there were good French there. I walked in the direction of the village and as I approached it came to a group of men who were erecting a building. I stopped a short distance away and whistled. One of the men came over. After explaining to him who I was he put me in a chicken house and I stayed there until they all left. It was very uncomfortable, so I went to a barn closeby and spent the night hiding in some baled hay. I covered my stocking feet with loose hay.

(?)

The next morning the workers came back, with them a young boy who came toward the barn. I whistled at him, but he was apparently frightened and left. After about fifteen minutes a man came and looked in the barn and finally came on in. I told him who I was and he said to stay there. He left and returned shortly with another man. They were both Italians but kept saying "Comrade." They went off and returned with food and clothing for me.

One said he was going to PARIS and take me with him. However, he looked at my face which was badly burned and that seemed to worry him. Nevertheless, ~~however,~~ he said to follow him and we left about 1700 hours. a great deal.

We walked about a mile and a half and then a man came along in a pick-up truck and took us to a suburb of PARIS. We caught a train from here. I had come down about 35 miles east of PARIS.

After about 15 minutes we changed trains. Then after a short ride we got off and went to the man's house. I spent the night there. The next day a lady came and the rest of my journey was arranged for me.