

E&E 576 - William Wertz
(See E&E 577)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 576
EVASION IN FRANCE

20/4/44
(Date)

William (NMI) WERTZ SGT 17054110
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

5
(Number of Missions)

TARGET: Ludwigshaven
MIA: 30 December 43
Arrived in UK:

20/4/44

~~751 Bomb Squadron, 130 Bomb Group~~
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt	Francis P SMITH, JR	✓	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt	James P LAW	✓	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt	Saul (NMI) HERCINOTIA FABIAN	✓	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688710	2d Lt	Glyde S MANION		E&E #
RADIO OPERATOR	11129879	S/Sgt	John L SWENSON	TARBS ✓	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32583144	T/Sgt	John T AMERY		E&E #469
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31198980	Sgt	Alvin G LITTLE	PARIS ✓	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36500968	Sgt	Conrad F STUMPFIG, JR		E&E #
WAIST GUNNER	16087728	Sgt	John W RUNCCEL		E&E #
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt	William (NMI) WERTZ		NARRATOR

Last saw these men in cities named above.

Were you wounded?

no,

Stencils ok - 29 Apr 44 - lkl

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

MS
Typed 27 April 44

E & E REPORT NO. 576-577
EVASION IN France

20 April 44
(Date)

William (NMI) WERTZ, SGT, 170544110 - 5 missions
Clyde S MANION, 2d Lt, 0-688710 - 5 missions

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: LUDWIGSHAVEN

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 30 December 43

Arrived in UK:

20 April 44

351 Bomb Sq, 100 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt	Francis P SMITH, JR		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt	James P LAW		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt	Saul (NMI) HERCHWOTIZ		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688710	2d Lt	Clyde S MANION		NARRATOR
RADIO OPERATOR	11129879	S/Sgt	John L SWENSON		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32583144	T/Sgt	John T AMERY		E&E #469
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31198980	Sgt	Alvin C LITTLE		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36500968	Sgt	Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR		E&E #568
WAIST GUNNER	16087728	Sgt	John W RUNCCEL		E&E #567
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt	William (NMI) WERTZ		NARRATOR

Were you wounded?

E&E # 576

INTERROGATOR Cherniss

William Wertz
(Name)

Sgt 17054110
(Grade) (ASN)

418 100
(Squadron) (Group)

30 December 43 20 April 44
(Missing in action) (returned to duty)

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

BILL SAFE

Language: French

Time: Evening News (8 PM)

Person requesting message CHARLES BODART (Marie Greene)

Date of contact with this person JANUARY

Description of this person: Stocky, 5'4", bald, small mustache.

Services rendered: Org. help, food, shelter.

Sgt. Wentz:-

WARNED OF
TROUBLE BY
A PASSING
CHUTE

I did not hear the order to bail out, but when I saw a chute go floating past me I decided that it was high time to get out. ~~My chute did not open when~~

TROUBLE WITH
CHUTE

I pulled the cord, and I had to pull the silk out of the cover. I landed without further incident on the edge of a wood into which I ran and hid until I had buried my chute and was lost. I then ~~started~~ ^{walked} through the wood until I came upon two men to whom I

DIRECTED
TO VILLAGE

declared myself. They told me to go into the village close by, ~~which they said was safe.~~ There were no Germans there, they said, and I ~~would~~ ^{would} be helped there. I found the village and entered

THE FIRST
CAFE

the first small cafe to which I came. ~~As soon as I had~~

~~had the woman to whom I tried to explain~~
There was a woman inside to whom I tried to explain who I was, but before I had succeeded a man came from behind the bar and took me to the house next door where

TOURNEY
ARRANGED

I was put to bed at once. From here my journey was arranged. Within a few days I joined Brunely Stumpfig, Marion, and several other evaders.

Lt. Marlow:-

PURSE AND AIDS BOX LOST IN FALL

When the order to bail out had been given I pushed the navigator out of the nose hatch and followed him. When my chute opened I lost my purse and aids box. I landed in a ploughed field, ~~and ran for a~~ ~~wood~~ ~~across~~ which I saw a man coming towards me. ~~I immediately~~ I ran away from him to a wood close by and then ran S, through the wood. ~~Presently~~ In a short time I came upon two woodcutters, who were enthusiastic when I told them that I was an American.

ENTHUSIASM IS NOT ENOUGH

~~Their~~ Their intelligence, however, was considerably less than their enthusiasm, as it turned out, though my ignorance of French prevented me ^(at the time) from understanding what was happening to me. They ~~woodcutters~~ led me into a small ~~town~~ town where they took me into the first cafe we came to. There the proprietor ~~told them~~, as I later discovered, that they must hand me over to the Germans, whereupon they marched me out of the cafe ~~and down the~~ ~~and~~ and started for the center of town. We had

SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME

not gone far when a young man stopped us, read the riot act to ~~the~~ my two guides who took ~~him~~ the lecture very courteously, and made us follow him to the railway station. There in the station-master's room a score of people gathered around me while I was given a meal. ~~I~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~my~~ ~~journey~~ ~~was~~ ~~arranged~~

TOURNEY ARRANGED
Harold F. ...
5/58

The rest of my journey was arranged here. Within a few days I joined Runcell, Stumpf, Wertz, and five other American swimmers.

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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

S/O

DATE: 21 April 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JOHN W. RUNCLE, Sgt., AC, 16087728

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

WILLIAM WERTZ, Sgt., AC, 17054110

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

William Wertz

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:

John W. Runcle



=====
The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as WILLIAM WERTZ,
Sgt., AC, 17054110 (351 Bomb Squadron - 100 Bomb Group)
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W.F.M.

W. F. MARANDA, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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