

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.**

Secret.

E. & E. REPORT No. I.S. 9(WEA)/8/511/877

TOP SECRET.  
I.S.9 (WEA)

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

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

E 18/1105

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 0-693991 Rank 2nd Lt Name WILLIAM (NONE) KAPLAN  
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 4
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 862 Bomb Sq
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 493 Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Pilot
- 7. Date of Birth 10 August 1918 8. Length of Service 2 Yrs
- 9. Peace time occupation Advertising 10. Private address Old Nyack Turnpike,  
Spring Valley, New York
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, Dog Tags, Escape Photos
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Some French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

- 13. No. and location of O.T.U. B XXXXX
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit XXXXX

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS  
WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew Pilot
- 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	NARRATOR		
CO-PILOT	2nd Lt KENNETH P KLEMSTINE	I.S.9(WEA)/8/512	
NAVIGATOR	NONE		
BOMBARDIER	2nd Lt JAMES H SMITH		BALLED OUT SAFELY
RADIO OPERATOR	T/SGT ROY J HERRIGAN		" " "
TOP TURRET GUNNER	S/SGT ROBERT F SEXTON		" " "
BALL TURRET GUNNER	S/SGT STANLEY K PAXTON		" " "
WAIST GUNNER (R.)	T/SGT FORRETS W EVINS		" " "
<del>XXXXX</del> NOSE			
WAIST GUNNER (L.)	S/SGT ROBERT M SHOCKEY		" " "
TAIL GUNNER	S/SGT CHARLES R CRAIG		" " "

- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-24 Debach, Eng. 22 June 1944, 1600 hrs
- 18. Where and when did you come down? 3 Km NW HUISSEAU-SUR-COSSON (s Loire Riv. near BLOIS)  
2000 hrs, 22 June 1944
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Disposed of by French
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Secret.

At approximately 2000 hours on 22 June 1944, I was in the cockpit of a B-24 Liberator aircraft, tail number 44-24100, en route to the target area of the French town of ...

For All Personnel.

1. No. 0-23333 Rank 2nd Lt Name WILLIAM (JIM) KAPLAN  
 (U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)

2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 4

3. Were you wounded? Give details No

4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 802 Bomb Sq

5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 493 Gp.

6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rm., etc.) Pilot

7. Date of Birth 10 August 1918 Length of Service 2 Yrs

8. Private address Old Wash. Turnpike, Spring Valley, New York

9. Peace time occupation Advertising

10. Did you carry any form of identification, or photographs, or log tags, escape photos

11. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Some French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

12. No. and location of O.T.U. XXXXX

13. No. and location of Conversion Unit XXXXX

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

14. Post in Crew Pilot

15. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.

16. N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of DISTRIBUTION: including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.

PILOT	NAVIATOR	CO-PILOT 2nd Lt KENNETH P. KLEINSTEIN
NAVIGATOR	NONE	
BOMBARDIER 2nd Lt JAMES H. SMITH		
RADIO OPERATOR T/SGT ROY J. HOBIGAN		
TOP TURRET GUNNER S/SGT ROBERT F. SEXTON		
BALL TURRET GUNNER S/SGT STANLEY E. PAXTON		
WAIST GUNNER (R.) T/SGT ROBERTS W. EVINS		
WAIST GUNNER (L.) S/SGT ROBERT M. SHOCKEY		
TAIL GUNNER S/SGT CHARLES R. CRAIG		

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-24 Debach, Eng. 22 June 1944, 1500 hrs

18. I grade this escape (5). Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

19. Where and when did you come down? 22 June 1944 Date 19 August 1944

20. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map? Disposed of by French

21. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Attached:  
 Appendix "B" X  
 " "C" X  
 " "D" X

Disposal: Returned to unit

Cameron J. LaClair, t.  
 2nd Lt AC

Major

19 August 1944

~~SECRET~~  
Secret.

E & E Report No. I. S. 9(WEA)/8/511 /877

At approximately 2000 hrs, 22 June 1944, I came down in a ~~short~~ wheat field 3 Kms NW HUISSEAU-SUR-COSSON. Almost at the moment of my landing a crowd gathered. I asked where to hide, and they pointed to a wood to which I went, staying there until dark. During the time I was there I could ~~hear~~ the Germans searching high and low for me. When it became dark, I looked around, found a better place to sleep, and remained there until morning when I arose, climbed a tree (0900 hrs.), and had a look around *again*.

As a result of my look around I decided to make my way into HUISSEAU where I obtained help, remaining there 8 days. From here I was taken to ST CLAUDE-DE-DIRAY where I ~~was~~ remained another 8 days. Unfortunately a woman in the town talked too much with the result that I had to be hustled back again to HUISSEAU. The next day I joined LT KLEMSTINE at MONTLIVAUT, staying with him from 9 JULY until 19 JULY. (See I.S.9(WEA)/8/512) On the 19th we both went, because of a Gestapo scare, back to HUISSEAU, where we remained until 23 JULY. On that day LT KLEMSTINE went once more to MONTLIVAUT while I hid overnight in the woods because there were Germans in the town.

On the 24th July a note came from LT KLEMSTINE telling me to join him at MONTLIVAUT. This I speedily did, and from there on my story is the same as his. (See I.S.9(WEA)/8/512).

LANDS, CROWD  
GATHERS  
22 JUNE

HUISSEAU 8 DAYS  
30 JUNE  
ST CLAUDE-DE-DIRAY  
8 JULY

JOINS KLEMSTINE

KLEMSTINE LEAVES

RE-JOINS KLEMSTINE

Secret.

Secret.

TOP SECRET

I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 (WEA) / 8/511 / 877

List of all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defences, A.A. batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of Allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.).

No. 0-693991 Rank 2nd Lt Name WILLIAM (NMI) KAPLAN

Date of interview 19 August 1944

Evaded in France.

N.B.—It is of the utmost importance that when giving information on the above subjects you state clearly:—

- (1) Date, time and place where you obtained the information.
- (2) Was it the result of personal observation or a report by someone else?
- (3) If not from personal observation who was the source (i.e., waiter, farm labourer, hearsay, cafe rumour, etc.), and how accurate do you estimate the source to be?

Evaluation of informant's credibility.

Key.

- X 1.—Reliable.
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

- 1. Small bands of disorganized German troops S of LOIRE. Main roads S and W of BLOIS passing through wooded areas are blocked by trees cut down by Resistance. In attempting to clear these road blocks German troops are usually set upon (at night) by bands of Resistance with the result that they usually lose at least some men and generally a vehicle. Vehicles lost in this manner, according to local French, are usually not replaced by the Germans. This, observer feels, has contributed materially to German disorganization in this area.
- 2. 15000 Ger. wounded from Normandy passed through BLOIS.
- 3. Stockade with German prisoners of FFI near Chateau de CHERVERNY. Woman in cafe "O" 3 PIGEONS in CHERVERNY knows location of stockade and all about Resistance in that area.

Observation and Hearsay

Hearsay

Hearsay

Secret.

With the exception of items All above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to

Top Secret.

TOP SECRET.  
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/8/511/877

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

No. 0-693991 Rank 2nd Lt Name WILLIAM (NMI) KAPLAN

Date of Interview 19 August 1944

Evaded in France.

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Stayed in MONTLIVAUT (with Lt KLEMSTINE) with Mme. and Mlle. PETIT who lived in the Mairie. Mme. taught school there.

Stayed with ~~Andre~~ ANDRE ROUSSAY in HUISSEAU.

M. and Mme. COSSON helped us in MONTLIVAUT. It was M. COSSON who took Lt KLEMSTINE and myself across the LOIRE by boat.

I was helped by AIME BOUCHER in HUISSEAU.

Head of Resistance (name unknown) in MONTLIVAUT told me that there were 35 Allied airmen hidden in the area between BLOIS and ORLEANS.

Top Secret.

RESTRICTED

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington

AG 383.6 (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 supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (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 **SEGRET**.
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.

CERTIFICATE

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 **SEGRET** 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) WILLIAM KAPLAN  
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. O-693991  
Unit 86th Sgdn. 493rd Bn. Gp.

Signed William Kaplan  
Dated 27 August 1944  
Witness [Signature]

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

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SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO.  
EVASION IN

AUG. 21, 1944  
(Date)

KAPLAN WILLIAM 2nd Lt. 0-693991  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

862nd Bomb. Sqdn. 493rd Bomb. Gp. (H)  
(Squadron) (Group)  
Mission #4

TARGET: RR Freight east of Paris

MIA: June 22, 1944  
Arrived in UK: AUG. 20, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT		Narrator
CO-PILOT		Safe in U.K. (arrived with narrator) LT. Kenneth P. Klemstine
NAVIGATOR		none carried on mission
BOMBARDIER		LT. JAMES H. SMITH - parachuted out over France
RADIO OPERATOR		T/Sgt. ROY J. HERRIGAN - " " " "
TOP TURRET GUNNER		S/Sgt. ROBERT F. SEXTON - " " " "
MID TURRET GUNNER		S/Sgt. STANLEY K. PAXTON " " " "
<del>WING</del> GUNNER		S/Sgt. ROBERT M. SHOCKEY " " " " * believed safe in U.K.
ENG. #1 GUNNER		T/Sgt. FOREST W. EVINS - parachuted over France
TAIL GUNNER		S/Sgt. CHARLES R. CRAIG - " " " "

Were you wounded? No



CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-693991 Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) WILLIAM (NMI) KAPLAN

Unit 862 Bomb Sq, 493rd Bomb Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 19 August 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

*Cameron J. Salley*  
2nd Lt. A.C.

Major.

IMPORTANT.

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

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

NONE.

IF Returned to UK, this officer should report to Special Interrogation Center, 63 Brook St, London

To the best of my knowledge and belief this officer is the person he represents himself to be.

Cameron J. Laclair  
2nd Lt A.C.

M.I.2. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X. DET.  
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)