

RESTRICTED

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 **SECRET**.
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 **SECRET** 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) THOMAS L. YANKUS Signed Thomas L. Yankus
Rank CPL. A. S. N. 12193136 Dated August 19, 1944
Unit 95 Bomb Gr., 335 Bomb Sq. Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box? *yes*
- b. If not, why?
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets. *Didn't have them*
 Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *While hiding in woods for two nights and three days we were walking*
 Milk (tube). *Had none*
 Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *Used several times while walking*
 Halazone tablets (water purifier). *Every time we drank water*
 Matches. *no*
 Adhesive tape. *yes to relieve my blisters*
 Chewing gum. *yes for energy*
 Water bottle. *Very often*
 Compass. *While traveling thru woods & fields*
 Sewing kit. *To sew up my socks*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Organization took it*
- f. Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?

razor

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*
 State color of stripes and letters. *Red Mark III*
 If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *yes*

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

~~Person~~ Pearson + Yankus

A French man came up to me as soon as I landed + told me to follow him to the woods + we found the crev. on way to woods. Revived him.

On way back we ran out of gas.

When we had run low to go back to England. I bailed out thru bomb bay

after tail gunner + radio operator (Yankus). Delayed pump from 8000

feet to clouds at 2000 feet. I saw barbed wire fence, 200 ft. below me

but then remember hopping until I came to on the ground. Yankus was beside me with the F man. They went off to hide the cludes + found another clude in the tree but no man.

They pulled clude out of tree + hid it too.

The F man then gave me his coat + went off to get more clothes. Yankus

+ I were afraid that he might give us away; so we went into woods +

walked an hour. It began to snow. We found sheltered spot + went to sleep.

After an hour or two we awoke covered with snow. We went out of woods +

went SW by compass. + walked all night + at 0300 hrs went to sleep in another wood.

Awakened before dawn by voices. We kept quiet + on lookout until Sunday morning. We then

looked for isolated farm on edge of HAUTEVILLE furthest to west. We

30 kms
N. W of
ST.
Quentin

about
1400 hrs

2
watched until woman came out to feed
chickens. I told her in Fr. who I was. She
took us in + got her husband. She fed
us + gave us clothes. She said it would
be hard to get to Spain + gave us
questions to St. Quentin. We walked there
that afternoon. Walked thru town + that
night slept in barn 130 kms N. of Paris but
St. Quentin + HAM. Next morning walked
through NOYON + slept Near RIBECOURT
in some hay. Next day walked - no food -
through Compiègne. Stopped at VERBERIE
+ tried to get bread from a baker but
no coupons. Got to VILLERS. There
a girl gave us food + directed us to
a house where we found a young
man + his sister + brother in law. He
brought an English-speaking woman
who interrogated us. The Pole put us up
in a hotel in VILLENUEVE that night +
next morning he ^{SUR VERBERIE} took us to SENLIS +
took us to a friend's house. (CRETEUR
M. ^{LEON} ~~LEON~~ and his wife, his married daughter
NINON + her husband BERNARD BINDER)
Stayed here from 8 March until 1 May.
Then they took us on 1 May to the
SECOURS NATIONAL, Mlle. Marguerite
Gronier. Stayed here until 3 June.

In Seulis Helped by

Head of organization in Seulis
DEKATTWA

~~JULES~~ FOSSIER, gendarme; wife
educated in England (Marguerite) &
her parents, M + Mme LOUIS CHARTPENTER
& their son RENE.

Mme CORBIE working with Fossier
Jacqueline CABRE + her mother -
60 Rue de CHATELLE.

on 3 June ^{with Fossier} went to Chantilly where
we met 2 Englishmen + 1 Canadian evaders
& a guide, PIERRE, who took us to
<sub>also called PEDRO - thick glasses - about
24 yrs old. came to camp in forest.</sub>

a bicycle shop & then to a florist's.
across the street (near Les Invalides)
Thence a girl guide took us to an
apt where we met PHILIP + VIRGINIA
<sub>(French Army officer came to V.K.
through Spain)</sub>
(She came from
Dayton, Ohio & has since been taken by
Gestapo). Stayed one night, then to
another apt for a night & next day
by train to CHATEAUDUN (5 June) with
ANNA MARIE + another girl. Stayed
_{also visited woods -}

MARCEL RIDAU in the forest
Hanger who got food + a
RENE from BUSLOUP

on farm near CLOVES (M. GAY) until
10 June. Then taken by another guide
(PIERRE GUILLAMIN - with us ever since)
Young man about 21 yrs old

to the camp in the Forest + met
the British Col. - LUCIEN.

Stayed until 24 June + then transferred
to the 2nd camp 10 kms S. near
~~BOB~~ BUSLOUP with JEAN who was in
charge of this camp. Stayed till 12 Aug.
when we broke camp + waited for Americans.

Stay from here on same as BARR.

5000 000 litres of gasoline in dump
in the center of POTEAU DE LA TABLE
in forest of Chantilly (Hearsey March 44)

S E C R E T

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

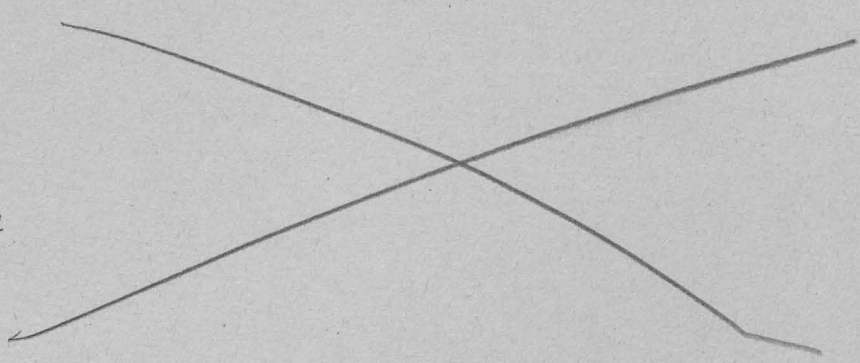
REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Thomas L. Yankus Cpl 12 193136 8/19/44
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
95 Bomb Gr 335 Bomb Sq
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT
CO-PILOT
NAVIGATOR
BOMBARDIER
RADIO OPERATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER
BALL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER



Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. *March 3, plane was still going on four engines*

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? *Our gasoline was finished. Otherwise the plane was in perfect condition*

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? *8000 ft*

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? *no*

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? *Pearson (yes) Westerson (yes) Strackbine (yes)*

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? *Didn't see the plane crash*

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Yes I found my navigator and together we found tail gunner chute but not him
Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise. *no*

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition? *no*

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat. *no*

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion? *Don't know*

~~SECRET~~

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL,
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Thomas L Yankus Cpl 12193136
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 3/3/44

Date arrived in UK: 8/18/44

2 (No. of missions)

335 (Squadron) 95 (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT RODNEY ROETHM
CO-PILOT WALTER
NAVIGATOR JOHNATHAN PEARSON - TOGETHER ALL THE TIME
BOMBARDIER DONALD EAGEN
RADIO OPERATOR THOMAS YANKUS
TOP TURRET GUNNER CHARLES STRACKBINE
BALL TURRET GUNNER GENE PURNELL
WAIST GUNNER JOHN WESP
WAIST GUNNER FLOYD NOULLET
TAIL GUNNER EMORY KESTERSON - FOUND HIS PARACHUTE ON THE GROUND

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: AUGUST 5, 1923

Private Address: 9117-172 ST., JAMAICA (3) NEW YORK

Length of Service: 1 year 9 months

Job as Civilian: machinist

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Horham 6:30 A.M.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? I destroyed my flimsies

Were you wounded? Give details. no

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? no

Do you speak FRENCH? a little SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? yes

(over)