

RESTRICTED

8281082

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) LEO R. ORIFICI
Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 12194151
Unit 397th BOMB. GRP.

Signed Leo R. Orifici
Dated AUG-19-1944
Witness John F. White Jr Captal

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

RESTRICTED

Secret

E. & E. REPORT No. 139(WEA)/8/134/183

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

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

EVADING CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 12194151 Rank S/Sgt Name Leo R. Orifici
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 31
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details ~~599 Bomb Sqn~~ No.
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 599 Bomb Sqn
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 397 Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Radio Operator
- 7. Date of Birth 2 September 1923 8. Length of Service 1 year 7 mos
- 9. Peace time occupation clerk 10. Private address 766 South Oak Drive, Bronx, N.Y.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Italian

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 BAILE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew Radio operator
- 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	Capt Powers	Probably killed in plane.
CO-PILOT	2d Lt Mikesell	Bailed out, PW (French said)
NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Gassert	" " " " "
BOMBARDIER		
RADIO OPERATOR	Narrator	" " " " "
TOP TURRET GUNNER	S/Sgt Heywood	" " " " "
BALL TURRET GUNNER		
WAIST GUNNER (R.)		
WAIST GUNNER (L.)		
TAIL GUNNER	S/Sgt Hudson	" " " " "

- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-26, Rivenhall, 23 June 44, afternoon
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Near Glanville by Le Havre, 23 June 44.
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hid them.
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes.

Secret

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

ESCAPEE/RESCUED/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

The following 3 British paratroopers were last seen by the narrator escaping from the prison camp S of Cabourg, 10 July 1944.

1. No. 12194151 Rank S/sgt Name E. Shepherd

4/16 Avenue Beverly High Road Hull, Yorks

2. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2nd (Air Force) J. Bailey

Peeks Drive, Clay Lake Spalding, Lincs

3. Date of Birth 2 September 1923 N. Gent

68 Freshfield Walk, North Road Clayton, Manchester

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

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

WHO BAILE OUT

15. Post in Crew	Radio operator
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.	
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure	B-26, Riverhull, 23 June 44, afternoon
18. Where and when did you come down?	Near Glanville by Le Havre, 23 June 44.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map etc?	Hidden
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?	Yes
1. PILOT	Capt Powers
2. CO-PILOT	2d Lt Mikeall
3. NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Gassart
4. BOMBARDIER	
5. RADIO OPERATOR	Narrator
6. TOP TURRET GUNNER	S/sgt Heywood
7. BALL TURRET GUNNER	
8. WAIST GUNNER (R)	
9. WAIST GUNNER (L)	
10. TAIL GUNNER	S/sgt Hudson

Secret

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 17 August 1944

Attached:

- Appendix "A"
- " "C"
- " "D"

I grade this escape 3.

John Forsyth
JOHN FORSYTH
2d Lt CAC

Disposal: Returned to unit.

Major

Secret

Secret.

E & E Report No. IS9(WEA)/8/134/183

~~Landed safely~~
~~Captured later~~

On ²⁴ June we were forced to bail out near Glanville. In descending I saw only 4 chutes, so I think that the pilot must have been killed in the plane. The others pulled their ripcords as soon as they were clear of the plane, so the Germans captured them as soon as they hit the ground, so the French told me. I delayed until 1000 feet. When I hit the ground, I walked about 2 km and then hid in a hedgerow. Soon I contacted the French, and was moved along by several of them toward Dives, where I intended to get through the lines into the British sector. I went into a house on the E bank of the Dives river, where I met 3 British paratroopers. While we were there, the Gestapo raided the house, and we left, and crossed the river to a house on the other side. On 6 July we stopped in another house, and found a lot of Germans inside who captured us.

Escaped 10
July and re-
captured

We were taken to a prison camp S of Cabourg. There we ^{ascertained} the hours for the changing of the guard, and at 0530 on 10 July escaped through a window. I was to meet the other three at a RV because we went through the window 5 minutes apart. I was the second. When I reached the rendezvous, the first man wasn't there, I thought that something had gone wrong, so I went on alone. I went into a field and hid. Up to this time I had never gotten civilian clothes. I thought that my fatigues were sufficient disguise. On 12 July some Germans found me in the field, and I was taken back to the prison from which I had escaped. They put me into solitary confinement for 2 days on bread and water. There was little difference between this and the regular prison conditions.

Second escape
successful

On 18 July I was moved to Falaise and then on 21 July to Alençon. I stayed at the latter place until 9 August, doing different types of work every day, all directly connected with the German war effort. When I was moved to Sées. The next day I got on a truck detail that was going back to Alençon to get some load. Some of our planes flew over the truck, and the driver drew to the side of the road and the guards hid, even though the planes never strafed. I escaped and went cross-country until I contacted a man in the Resistance who took me to his house and kept me until I was overrun by the 5th Armd Div.

Secret.

~~Top Secret~~

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)/8/134/83

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

No. 12194151 Rank S/Sgt Name Leo R. Orifici

Date of Interview 17 August 1944

The following member of the Resistance kept the narrator
in his house for 1 week until overrun by US forces.

André Burté
Chaillaué, Orne

~~Top Secret~~

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 1082
EVASION IN FRANCE
escape

9.S. 9(WFA) 8/134/183

*by Dick B
Proof
by*

(Date)

Leo R ORIFICI, S/Sgt, 12194151

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

31 missions

599 Bomb Sq, 397 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

MIA: 24 June 1944

Arrived in UK:

19 August 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-424132	Capt Kenneth H POWERS		E&E #1136
CO-PILOT	0-812290	2d Lt Paul W MIKESSELL		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-744013	1st Lt Merrill R GASSERT		MIA
BOMBARDIER	NONE			
RADIO OPERATOR	12194151	S/Sgt Leo R ORIFICI		NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	19099422	S/Sgt James H HEYWOOD		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	NONE			
WAIST GUNNER	NONE			
WAIST GUNNER	NONE			
TAIL GUNNER	13001228	S/Sgt Willis W HUDSON		E&E #1137

Were you wounded?

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KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

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 - (1) The names of those who helped you.
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Name (Print) LEO R. ORIFICI
Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 12194151
Unit 397th BOMB GRP.

Signed Leo R. Orifici
Dated Aug - 19 - 1943
Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

RESTRICTED

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 - 19 - 1944
(Date)

31 9-14-44
Geo R. Orificy S/SGT 12194151
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

599th 397th
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: 2 Bridges on Sava River
MIA: JUNE 23 - 1944
Arrived in UK:
AUG - 18 - 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT - CAPT. KENNETH POWERS		
CO-PILOT 2nd LT. MIKESEHL		
NAVIGATOR } 1st LT. GASSERT		
BOMBARDIER } <i>Navigator</i>		
RADIO OPERATOR		
TOP TURRET GUNNER S/SGT JAMES HEYWOOD		
BALL TURRET GUNNER		
WAIST GUNNER		
WAIST GUNNER		
TAIL GUNNER S/SGT WILLIAM HUDSON		

Were you wounded?

No

CONFIDENTIAL.

(twice escaped)
23 June

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 12194151 Rank S/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Leo R. Otifici

Unit 599 Bomb Sq, 397 Sp.

has been fully/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 17 August 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should/should not/be re-interrogated.

*Must report to 63 Brook, London
upon arrival UK.*

*John Forsyth
2d Lt, CAC
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.

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

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

None.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

Unit

This man is to the best of my knowledge
and belief the person he represents himself
to be.

He should/should not be re-interrogated.

John Forryth
2d Lt, OTC

Major

IMPORTANT.

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