

On 14 June I was
 being fed in a farmhouse
 when I made clear my
 desire to contact the
 resistance. The farmer led
 me to the Comte de Bagnières.
 The ~~Count~~ Count & Countess
 speak English and live in
 a château at Chénodoult (Orne)
 of which he is the mayor. At
 the moment they were living on
 a farm on the estate of Evord
 being bombed in the château ~~the~~
 which was occupied by Germans.
 As the battle grew closer she
 became ~~more~~ more nervous
 and took off to her parents home
 in Southern France.

The Count gave me
 civilian clothes and a shirt and
 in a fishing shack on the lake

A day later he brought in Lt
Matusz 228 kpts and we
lived there a week. Food
was brought to us.

There began to be
much traffic past the
shack and the two local
collaborators started looking
for us. We were put in the
care of two brothers Charles et
Clement Macé who lived
on farms a mile apart. The
third brother René (or Henry) was
carefully kept in the dark as he
is a firm believer in ultimate
German victory. We stayed
in a dilapidated barn from
20 or 22 June to 4 August. Our
food was brought to us and
he went to the farms occasionally
for a meal.

On 4 August, one of the

Count's men was to take us
to Jarrow (Mazenne) where
we would be put into the hands
of the underground, and
probably fly out. That afternoon
the Germans bivouacked
next to us and we took off
to Clement Mack who was
further away. The Jarrow
guide said the trip was
off and Clement said he
would keep us in an old house
on the farm. On 13 August, however,
we moved into the woods until
18 August when the British
came in. Clement fed us
the whole time we were in the
woods.

The Count took us to the
British, who now occupied
the chateau and we lived
here for two days until four
American officers came by.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

2+C
111✓
APO 696, US Army,
21 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : 1ST LT ALBERT L GESE, 0746086, 20th Fighter Group.

You will proceed on or about 21 August 1944 from Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to the United States Special Reception Center, 63 Brook Street, London W-1, England. TDN by MF, mil airt or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

V H STRAHM
Brig Gen, USA
C of S.

OFFICIAL: (SEAL)

C R BIRBARI
Lt Col, A.C.,
Asst Adj Gen.

A TRUE COPY:

Frederick H. Koester
FREDERICK H KOESTER
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
367th Fighter Group.

RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 1st Lt. ALBERT H. GESE

Unit:- 77th FIS.

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? NO
- b. If not, why? LOST WHEN LEAVING PLANE
- 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. NO

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. NO

Milk (tube). NO

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). NO

Halazone tablets (water purifier). NO

Matches. NO

Adhesive tape. NO

Chewing gum. NO

Water bottle. NO

Compass. NO

Sewing kit. NO

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- 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?

NO

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? YES
State color of stripes and letters. MARK H RED
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? *NO, SCALE TOO SMALL*

Compass. *YES*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *FRENCH 2000 FRANKS*

How did you spend the money? *GAVE IT TO THE PRISONERS*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *STILL HAVE THEM*

Compass. *LOST*

File (hacksaw). *LOST*

Surplus currency. *NONE*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *YES, LOST*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them? *NO*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES*

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *YES*

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

*NO. > Other helpers if you
and a gun. I don't like to say that
know what they are doing at all.*
*Church's boots but in the
country, rubber seal would be
better &
the low in country there is more
food there. Pick spot where G.I.s
should not advance but not
place where there should be a fair
such as a cross road.*

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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 supercedes 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.

GERTIFICATE

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) ALBERT L GESE
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0-746086
Unit 77th FS 20th GP

Signed Albert L Geese
Dated Aug 23 1944
Witness Stolery C Smith Capt WAC

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

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

A Frenchman who accompanied
us of Corps H. P. claimed
knowledge of something
sites no attention paid
than thinking time
He said he knew workers
who had constructed them
& built them and knows
areas but not for points.
Count de Bagneaux
who owns Castel du
Repas près de Pétange
(Orne) 7th Corps
G2 showed him whereabouts
he is trying to join forces.
Travelled
Territory in British
Hands now
Count is mayor of Cienfuegos (Orne)

I sleep not yet clear as
to where I was. Next a m-
Mex woman in a long row approached
stealthily through brush &
asked for food in sign language
& few basic words of English.
She said she couldn't find or
clothes just food. Seemed to want
more and wanted me to move
on into food. Gave me map of Dine

By June 10 00 girl about 20 yrs
leading horse. She yelled
for help and I ran back
into woods and had been lying
under cover on edge of road
only for help & pass by.
At 17 00 elderly man stopping
wood gave me cold shoulder
pushed up past fork & walked
away & I went opposite way
pretty discouraged.
About 1 00 approached
farmhouse. Here had
seen A/C crash. Gave food
but no clothes or shelter.
Many A/C guns about
so people scared of G

2 — Count is mayor of Chénod
Chénod

Spent 2nd night freezing
under tree in woods.

14th off before sunset
at farmhouse. Taken in for
breakfast. Indicated desire
of ~~contact~~ resistance and
desire to evade deer. Farmer
decided me to follow.

Ted me of some of Count
de Bagneres(?) who spoke for
as his wife. Lived a Chénod

Count gave me rivies & so
to a fishing place of lake
He & wife had refuged from
Chateaux & farm. He had from
chateau & avoid bombing.
She is nervous & finally as Wednesday
near went to her parents in
France

10x6 full of spiders.
Spent day here food brought
15th June at noon
Count brought Lt Mautise & block
\$362 Ft (P 49) AF (P49). Lived
here together for a week
mails daily.
to may started
to pass by. May 8 and

due to curiosity. There
were 2 collaborators in town
who moved to. Collaborators
know we were about to over
take for us. He later gave their
names to the British.

2 farmers (brothers) lived
near apart Charles & Clement
Mack. 3rd brother René left in dark
carefully by 2 bro as he is from
Bellevue in ultimate to Richby.
They put us in a capsule of
house used as barn & brought
meals daily about 20 or 22 and
until 4 August. Occasionally
visited their homes for a meal
Our only danger & passing our
food on March 19 1944. We
played cards while it rained.

On 4 August one of
towns men went to tell
us to Javron (W Alencourt
due 5 of C) here to be taken

3

under way of underground. I might
fly out. That afternoon
I surprised in farmers yard
right west of us. We took
their little woods. That night
Clement Mack who was
furthest from G. The Baron
guide was here but tonight
half of night. Clement said
he would care for us. Before
We lived in dilapidated house. When
G came for food hid in barn
at back of house. About August
2 G saw us outdoors asked for
food. It was directed to the house
without arousing suspicion.
On 13 August thought G might
see overland as flying ^{in various}
to jump. So moved into nearby
grove until 18 August. It
brought us food here but no
shelter. That afternoon G
occupied our old house.
Morning of 18 Aug the British
entered the town without
a battle. I had said
at along no battle here & here

Good area because town
high surrounding one flat
No just cut off.

About 11:00 hrs Count came
& took us to Bentons in his
Aptam. No bales ^{over} of moves
for 2 weeks so rough charades
but Bentons fed us well with
the Count had us well and
stove. Lived in chateau
2 days.

On 20 August U.S. officer
came by. No took us to
3rd floor where sent
us to 7th Corps H.Q. Here
Capt Eisenhower asked story
so to 9th AF strip on 21st
& so to W.K. on 22 August

Count was also brought
Capt Eisenhower by another
officer. Most of time former
Stomach trouble. Good.

S E C R E T

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

26 August 1944

E & E REPORT NO 1112
EVASION IN FRANCE

Albert L GESE, 1st Lt, O-746086
(40 Missions)

77th Fighter Squadron, 20 Fighter Group

MISSION: STRAFING S OF
NORMANDY FRONT

MIA: 12 June 1944

Arrived in UK:

22 August 1944

I was strafing German trucks when I was hit by light flak. The right engine caught fire and would not feather. I bailed out at 700 feet and pulled the ripcord as soon as I was clear of the aircraft. I landed softly in a field, my chute catching in a tree from which I could not disentangle it. After hiding my equipment in a hedgerow I ran to a nearby woods. There was no one around so I stopped to bury my flying suit and boots. I tried to study my maps, but they were the old type. I found that my knee pocket had been ripped in the jump and I therefore had no escape aids.

I lay in the woods for thirteen hours, and started walking at dusk. As there was no compass in my purse, I traveled by the setting sun, and later by the stars. I walked as long as I could before going to sleep in an open field. I still had no clearly made plans. When I awoke I saw a woman milking a cow and wriggled stealthily through the brush towards her. I knew a few words of basic French, and with these was successful in getting her to feed me. She would neither cloth nor hide me, however, and wanted me to move off at once. As I left she gave me a map of the department.

I next approached a young woman leading a horse, but she immediately called for help and I set off in the opposite direction. In mid-afternoon I came to an elderly man chopping wood. As soon as he realized who I was, he picked up a pitch fork and set off in the opposite direction. At 1700 hours I reached a farmhouse where I was fed and told to move on. The explanation was given that there were too many Germans about, manning the AA guns. I spent a second cold night under a tree.

I was off next morning before sunrise, and was taken into a farmhouse for breakfast. Here I remarked that I wished I could meet some one in the Resistance Movement. The farmer beckoned to me to follow him. We came to a home in which I was given civilian clothes and then taken to a lakeside shack to be hidden. The shack was 10' x 6' and full of spiders. After a day here I was joined by Lt MATUSZ (E&E Report No.). We lived here a week and our meals were brought to us daily.

Too many people started to pass nearby. Our friend said that this was only due to natural curiosity, but he was afraid that the two local collaborators would get wind of this situation. We were moved to the barn of a nearby

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

Albert L GESE, 1st Lt, O-746086
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

22 August 1944
(Date)

77 Fighter Squadron, 20 Fighter Group
(Unit)

E&E Report No. 1112

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT	O-746086 1st Lt Albert L GESE	RD
CO-PILOT	NO CREW	
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.

12 June 1944 - 9:30 - ST HONORINE, LA GUILLAUME

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

Right engine on fire - left fast losing power

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **800 feet**

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

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? **No crew**

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **No**

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
None

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 crew

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

Yes - plane going up in flames.

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.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

No crew

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

TARGET: STRAFING

Date mission in action: JUNE 12, 44

Date arrived in UK: AUG. 22, 44

ALBERT L. GESE 1st Lt. 0-746086
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

40 (?) (No. of missions)

77th 20th
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what
happened to each man
and how you know.

PILOT ALBERT L. GESE

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Decorations: AIR MEDAL, D.F.C.

Date of Birth: JAN. 5, 1920

Private Address: BOWDIE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Length of Service: 2 YEARS, 4 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: STUDENT

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. NO

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? NO GUIDES

Do you speak FRENCH? NO SPANISH? NO GERMAN? NO ITALIAN? NO OTHER LANGUAGE? NO

Did you have identity papers? NO DOG TAGS

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

YES - G-2 - 7th CORPS - FRANCE Capt Eisenhower whole story

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

YES - G-2 - 7th CORPS - FRANCE

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? NO

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When? YES, 63 BROOK STREET, LONDON, AUG. 23, 44

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. AIR STRIP T-2 - FRANCE

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

26
I was scraping German trucks
when I was hit by light flack and
~~the~~ right engine caught fire, and
would not feather. I baled out
at 700 ft and pulled the ripcord
as soon as I was clear of the aircraft.
I landed softly in a field, my chute
catching in a tree from which
I could not disengage it. After
hiding my equipment in a hedgerow,
I ran to a nearby woods. There
was no one around so I stopped
to bury my flying suit and boots. I tried
to study my maps, but they were
the old type. I found that my
map pocket had been ripped in his
jump and therefore had no escape routes.
I lay in the woods for thirteen
hours, and started walking
at dusk. As there was no compass in
my purse, I travelled by the bell
sun, and later by the stars. I walked
as long as I could before going
to sleep in an open field. I still
had no clear ~~conception of what~~
~~per~~ made plans. When I awoke
I saw a woman milking a cow
and suggested stealing through the

brush towards her. I knew a few words of basic French, and with these was successful in getting her to feed me. She would not let me, however, and wanted me to move off ~~that~~ at once. As I left she gave me a map of the Department.

Next approached a young woman leading a horse. But she immediately called for help, and I set off in the opposite direction. In mid-afternoon I came to an elderly man chopping wood. As soon as he realized who I was, he picked up a pitchfork and set off in the opposite direction. At 1700 hrs I reached a farmhouse where I was fed and bed to move on. The explanation was given that there were many Germans about, manning the AA guns. I spent a ^{second} ~~little~~ cold night under a tree.

Got off next morning before sunrise, and was taken into a farmhouse for breakfast. Here I remarked that I wished

could meet someone in the Resistance Movement. The farmer beckoned & me to follow him. We came to a house in which I was given civilian clothes and then taken to a lakeside ~~shack~~ shack to be hidden. The shack was 10 x 6 and full of spiders. After a day here I was joined by Lt Matusz (2nd Lt #4). We lived here a week and our meals were brought to us daily.

Too many people started to pass nearby. Our friend said that this was only due to natural curiosity, but he was afraid that the two local collaborators would get wind of the situation. We were moved to the barn of a nearby farm. It rained all the time and we whiled away the time until August playing cards in the hay. I don't think that we lived as German patrols came by frequently.

When the Germans bivouacked in the yard next to us, we took to the woods. One of the farmers soon joined us and led us to a deserted

house in which we lived until
 13 August. There were Germans
 everywhere then and bringing us food
 was so risky that we decided to
 take to the woods for good. That
 afternoon the Germans moved into
 our hiding place, ^{we had spent} after five days
 in the open the Germans moved out,
 and the ~~British~~ moved in.
~~The British~~

B

Territory now in British
 hands

D

1. Cigar box ripped off when leaving
 A/C
2. Carried a Red purse, used
 the compass and gave to money
 to helpers. The maps were of old
 type and useless.
3. The photographs were attached to my diary
 box

over