

E4ET 1350
CONFIDENTIAL.



CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 181058 Rank S/Sgt
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Jess W. Britton
Unit 322 Sqn 91 Bomb Gr

has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 1 Sep 1944
and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

13 Aug

Major. J. J.

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.

RESTRICTED

E+87350

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)

Jess W. Britton

Signed

Jess W. Britton

Rank

S/sgt.

A. S. N.

18105863

Dated

9/3/44

Unit

91 B. Gp. 322 B. Sgd. APO 557

Witness

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Jess W. Britton S/Sgt. 18105865
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

9/3/44
(Date)

91B 44 322 B. Sqd. APO 557
(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. 8/13/44 at 1300
Near Louriers France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
There was a direct hit by flak in the oxygen tank
the plane was burning
At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 20,000 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? All members
bailed out, all chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
yes, Lt. Joe Vukovich & Sgt. Rogers were alive & safe

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. 1st Lt. Thomas P. Smith
was killed, he was identified by his dog tags

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

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? The three crew members whom I received
no news had a good chance of evading, I'm positive
they all got out of the plane.

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.,.....)

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 12/47263 Rank S/Sgt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Jess W. Britton

Unit 91 B. Gp. 322 B. Afd.

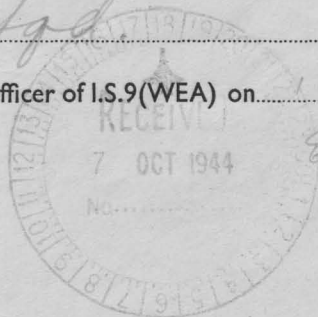
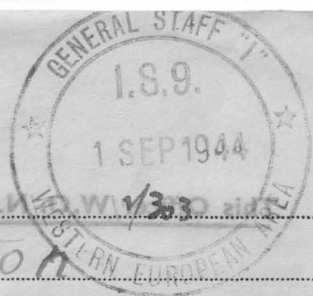
has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on 1 Sep 19 44

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

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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.



Major ES

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

EVADED CAPTURE/~~ESCAPED FROM~~ (Name of Country) FranceFor All Personnel.

1. No. 18105863 Rank S/Sjt Name J.W. Britton
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 21
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 91 Gp (B) 322 B. Sqn
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 91 Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Ball Gunner
7. Date of Birth 29 Sep 15 8. Length of Service 2 yrs, 4 mths
9. Peace time occupation Carpenter 10. Private address Box 829
Brownsboro, Texas, USA
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Photos, and Tags
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Spanish

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 TROOPSWHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Spanish
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 | <u>Dead</u> | <u>1/Lt T.P. Smith</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>Safe</u> | <u>2/Lt J. Vukovich</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>No news</u> | <u>2/Lt A.W. Calder</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>Believed P/W</u> | <u>2/Lt Bell</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>No news</u> | <u>T/Sjt D.C. Spears</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>No news</u> | <u>T/Sjt C. Sturgeon</u> |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>Safe</u> | <u>S/Sjt J.W. Britton</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>Safe</u> | <u>S/Sjt C.M. Seiler</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | | |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>Safe</u> | <u>S/Sjt L. Rogers</u> |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B.17, Bassingborn, Royston, England
Aug. 13 (0930)
18. Where and when did you come down? St. Cyr, North of Louvier at 1300 hrs.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Two French boys took all my equipment.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

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

EVASION CAPTURE (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

No. 18102863 Rank S/1st Lt Name J.W. Britton
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)

Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 21

Were you wounded? Give details No

Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 91 Gp (B) 322 B. Sqn

Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 91 Gp Job (Pl. Comd., Rtn., etc.) Ball Gunner

Date of Birth 29 Sep 15 Length of service 2 yrs, 4 mths

Peace time occupation Carpenter Private address Box 829 Brownsboro, Texas, USA

Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Photos, and tags

Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Spanish

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

No. and location of O.T.U.

No. and location of Conversion Unit

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

WHO BALE OUT

Post in Crew Spanish

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 1st Lt T.P. Smith Dead

CO-PILOT 2nd Lt J. Wroblewski Safe

NAVIGATOR 2nd Lt A.W. Calder No news

BOMBARDIER 2nd Lt Bell Believed P.W.

RADIO OPERATOR 2nd Lt D.G. Spears No news

TOP TURRET GUNNER 2nd Lt G. Sturgeon No news

BALL TURRET GUNNER 2nd Lt J.W. Britton Safe

WAIST GUNNER (R.) 2nd Lt C.M. Seiler Safe

WAIST GUNNER (L.)

TAIL GUNNER 2nd Lt I. Rogers Safe

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B.17, Basingbourn, Roxton, England Aug. 13 (0930)

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 28 Aug 45

Attached:
Appendix "B"

"C"
"D"

Disposal:

1/1

Brief

Were any secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Major

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 18105863 S/Sgt. Jess W. Britton

Unit:- 91 B. Sq. 322 B. Sqd. APO. 557

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". *used compass, water bottle, gum, candy*
Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *yes*

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. *yes*

Water bottle. *yes*

Compass. *yes*

Sewing kit.
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *gave it to people who helped me*
- 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. *red, Mark II*
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? *French*

Compass. *yes*

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *I never I bought, have*

How did you spend the money? *helped me the money to people who*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *gave them to people who helped me*

Compass. *still have it*

File (hacksaw). *still have it*

Surplus currency. *none*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *no*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *yes*
If so, how many? *9*

b. Did you use them? *no*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes, Birmingham June*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *by S-2 officer*

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?

travel at night, keep away from towns and roads

S E C R E T

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Jess W Britton s/sgt. 18105863
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

21
(No. of missions)

322 91
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 8/13/44

Date arrived in UK: 9/3/44

MEMBERS OF CREW:	(Please list names next to positions)	Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.
PILOT	<u>1st Lt. Thomas P. Smith</u>	<u>Dead</u>
CO-PILOT	<u>2nd Lt. Joe Kuckivoch</u>	<u>Safe</u>
NAVIGATOR	<u>2nd Lt. Alexander W. Calder</u>	<u>No News</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>2nd Lt. Bell</u>	<u>P. O. W.</u>
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>T/sgt. Delmer C. Spears</u>	<u>No News</u>
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>T/sgt. Charles Sturgeon</u>	<u>No News</u>
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>s/sgt. Jess W. Britton</u>	<u>Safe</u>
WAIST GUNNER	<u>s/sgt. Calvin Seiler</u>	<u>Safe</u>
WAIST GUNNER		
TAIL GUNNER	<u>s/sgt. Leonard Rogers</u>	<u>Safe</u>

Decorations: Air medal 2 clusters

Date of Birth: Sept. 29, 1915

Private Address: Box 829 Brownsboro Texas U.S.A.

Length of Service: 2yr 4mo.

Job as Civilian: carpenter

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Bassingborn, 0930

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes

Were you wounded? Give details. No

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No guide, but the people who kept me were given the whole 2000 Francs

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

Did you have identity papers? only Dog Tags

(over)

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

General Staff, Western European Area

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When? *No*

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? *at Bageaux France 9/2/44*

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *Near Bageaux France 9/2/44*

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

2nd Lt. Bell (Bombardier)

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

2nd Alexander W. Calder (Nav.)

T/sgt. Charles Sturgeon (Engineer)

T/sgt Delmer Spears (Radio)

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

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Name (Print) Jess W. Britton
Rank S/sgt. A. S. N. 18105863
Unit 91 B. Gp. 322 B. Sgd APO 557

Signed Jess W. Britton
Dated 9/3/44
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472