

1st Lt. Joseph Atkinson - O-687223

358 Ftr Coy

4 Sept 44

My ship was hit by flak on the 18 Aug. 1944. I baled out ~~and~~ in a wheatfield outside of Les Thilliers - en - Vexin (Eure) where I was greeted by 2 Frenchmen. One of them left and returned with a girl who spoke English. I was given an apron to wear over my clothes and then, hidden under sheaves of wheat, I was taken in a wagon to a barn owned by a woman who had formely lived in England. My cutss were cleaned, I was fed and that evening other Res. men arrived and led me on foot to a house on the other side of the village. I stayed here overnight and the following day a Mme. Vve. Raymond Perdereau came for me and took me to her house at Noyers par Dangu (Eure). She was the Secretaire de Ville in Noyers and a member of the Res. Men of the Res., wearing Red and Green armbands called frequently at her house. While here I met a M. Plantureux, 62, Blvd. Richard Le Noir, Paris 11. He was a member of the Fraach Intelligence and had a British transmitting set by mean of which he sent messaged to the British. Mme. Perdereau, in the course of the last 2 years, had passed on to Paris, 10 British, 1 Canadian and 4 American airmen. While I was there she induced 2 Algerians conscripted into the German army to desert and stay with her in hiding. Three Germans were shot in the woods near Noyer by the Maqui. The Germans took 4 Frenchmen as hostages and were going to shoot them, but she intervned and they were released. The Germans in their retreat requisitioned 1 ton of Potatos from the village stocks. She had to endorse their order. The Germans also took wheat for their horses. I stayed with her until the 30 Aug. when British unitis arrived and I was evacuated through Military channels.

R. Sarant  
2nd Lt. AUS.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

1367

APC 696, US Army,

3 Sept  
via 18 August

1 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO :

365 24  
1ST LT JOSEPH ATKINSON, 068723, 350th Fighter Group

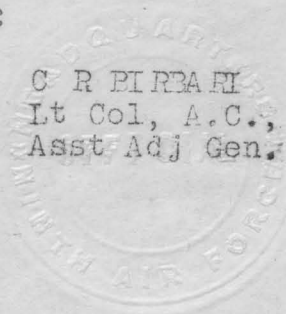
You will proceed on or about \_\_\_\_\_ 1944 from Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to the ~~United States~~ Special Reception Center, 63 Brook Street, London, W-1, England. TDN by IFF, mil airt or rail. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50435.

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

V H STRAHL  
Brig Gen, USA,  
C of S.

OFFICIAL:

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



R E S T R I C T E D

Hit by flak ~~xxx~~ while recon. camouflaged train. Plane caught 1367  
fire. I stayed with for about 3 minutes and then had to bail out  
Les Thilliers SE of Rouen EX VEXIN (EURE)  
at 2000. I landed in wheatfield, ditched my chute and west,

and ran over to 2 frenchmen who waved at me. We held a confab.  
They wanted to know if there were other crew members and one of  
the men ran about searching for same. He returned with a girl who s  
spoke English. They gave me a french apron in exchange for my leather  
jacket, hid me under sheaves of wheat on a wagon and hauled me to  
a barn. There they washed my cut, treated it, Another woman  
came in that spoke. Men were res. men. The barn belonged to the  
woman who had lived in England. Fed me and told me of a helper.  
They hid me in loft of barn and in evening the helper arrived and  
and took me to the other side of the village on foot. We came to  
a house where I stayed the night Next day at Noon ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
a Madame Vve. Raymond Perdereau, came for me and took me to  
her house at Noyers, par Dangu, Eure. She was member of the  
Res. and men who came and went wore Green and Red armband.

I stayed here until British arrived on 30th of Aug. While here  
62 Blvd. Richard Lenoir, 11me Paris  
I met a M. Plantureux ~~and~~ who was a member of the French Int.  
He had an English trans. set and he sent messages thru to the  
British. While there Mme P. induced two Algerian members of the  
German army (conscripted) into laying down their arms and remaining  
with her in hiding. She had had 15 A.F. men here in course of last  
2 years and had passed them on through channel to Paris. 10 Brit.  
1 Can. 4 Amer. Three Germans were shot in the woods nr. Noyer  
by the Maqui. (She was the Secetaire de Ville.) Germans took  
4 frenchmen as hostages and were going to shoot them but she int-  
ervened and they were released. German toops in retreat requisitioned  
1 ton of Potatoes and she had to endorse and stamp their order.  
The Germans took wheat for their horses.

German Red cross workers carried pistols.

On A.M. of 30th I reported to a Brit. C.P. where a Lt. asked me for Identity. I stayed with them until they reached their objective that P.M. I then caught a ride on a Recce car to Disors where British gave me a suit of clothes and bedded me for night. Next day they gave me transport. to Vernon where I met a Maj. U.S. in Civil Affairs Unit. He took me to Evreux and furnished transport. to Dreux where I stayed overnight with 366 Ftr. Gp. I was next day jeeped to Laval where I saw Capt. Luria He gave me a travel order to Brook S+. I first called at my Gp. at Strip A28 where I got transportation to Heston.

# 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 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) Atkinson Joseph  
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0685223  
Unit 3687th A.S. 3687th A.C.

Signed Joseph Atkinson  
Dated 4 Sept '43  
Witness R. Sarant, 1st Lt. A.W.

# RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

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

Atkinson, Joseph / 1st Lt 0699225  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 1/18/43

Date arrived in UK: 11/25/43

89 (No. of missions)

516th (Squadron) 338th (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Atkinson, Joseph - returned.

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

P-45 D 22

Decorations: Air Medal & Clusters (13)

Date of Birth: 3/30/19

Private Address: 703 Maple Ave. Du Bois, Pa.

Length of Service: - 2 yrs - 2 mos

Job as Civilian: mechanic

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

A-28-1130

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Were you wounded? Give details.

yes slight cut above eye

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

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

Did you have identity papers? no

(over)

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

*No*

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?

*With This Form*

Date of arrival in Spain: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *A-28 - 415 - 9/3/44.*

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

*None*

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

*None*

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

8/18/44. Les Thrillers - 1246-

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc? Hit in radio & accessory section  
& burning.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? between 2000 - 2500

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

NO

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

\_\_\_\_\_

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?

\_\_\_\_\_

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.

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes - engine Rudder fin & prop blades identified

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and 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 reasons for his opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_



SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name: - 0697223 - 1st Lt ACKINSON, Joseph  
Unit: - 368th FG, 368th FG.

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. *no*
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *no*
- Milk (tube). *no*
- Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *no*
- Halazone tablets (water purifier). *no*
- Matches. *yes -*
- Adhesive tape. *no*
- Chewing gum. *yes*
- Water bottle. *no*
- Compass. *no*

Sewing kit. *no*  
*Rayon & soap - good*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *no*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *returned to capt intelligence*
- 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?

*Tooth brush.*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes -*  
State color of stripes and letters. *—*  
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? *yes France -*

Compass, *no*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *lost with jacket.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *lost with jacket.*

Compass. *thrown*

File (hacksaw). *lost with jacket*

Surplus currency. *lost with jacket*

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 or 8*

b. Did you use them? *no*

5. LECTURES

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

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*Capt Raschrock - Payton*

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?

*Put phrase card in purse. also  
took lunch for moral.*

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.,.....)

*In Allied possession*