

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 883.6 (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) Burnett Robert L.
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. O-669984
Unit 388th BG. 563rd Sqn

Signed Robert L. Burnett
Dated 3 Sept 44
Witness W. C. Smith Capt WAC

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AG P BR HQ SOS

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Name (Print) Burnett Robert L.
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-669984
Unit 563d Sgln 388th B.G.

Signed Robert L. Burnett
Dated 3 Sept 44
Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SOS

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RESTRICTED

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S. 9(WEA) PERSONNEL

Sept 3 1944
(Date)

Burnett R.L. 2nd Lt. O-669984
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Stuttgart 8
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Sept 6 1943

Returned to UK: 9-3-44

388th B.G. 563rd B.G.
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT	Kramer	Safe
CO-PILOT	Swap	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	Bowman	Unknown
BOMBARDIER	Burnett	Safe
RADIO OPERATOR	Briche	Safe
TOP TURRET GUNNER	Martin	Safe
BALL TURRET GUNNER	Thomas	Believed Dead
W/ST GUNNER	Vickless	Safe ——— 129
W/ST GUNNER	Soukup	Safe
TAIL GUNNER	Chapman	Safe

When I say safe I mean they reached the ground alright but later went all over the country.

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. 9-3-43 | 10 AM.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. The plane crashed 25 miles E of Troyes (France)
Was it on fire, etc?
Exact damage unknown. The nose and cockpit was on fire and pilots instruments destroyed.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 20,000 ft

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

BOWMAN the navigator and Burnett were both injured before jumping.

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

All the crew jumped and all parachutes believed opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? No - but it finished burning.

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

yes - I saw Kramer, Vickless and Chapman. I heard about all others except Bowman and Swap.

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.

Bowman and Swap were never seen after jumping. A body believed to be Joe Thomas was found near the plane dead. All others were known to be safe and they (over) dispersed after reaching Troyes.

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.

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

I knew that all the members that landed safely were handled by the "Underground" and were sent to various place to hide.

Were you wounded?

yes

Were you in German hands?

no

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

no

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

yes -

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

none

What security briefing were you given?

Signed security papers.

What souvenirs do you still possess?

none

Home address. *331 West Illinois Street Dallas Texas*

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

None known

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

none

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

EVADED CAPTURED/~~ESCAPED~~ FROM (Name of Country) France

For all Personnel.

1. No. 0-669984 Rank. 2d Lt. Name. BURNETT, Robert L.
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S) 8
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 8
3. Were you wounded? Give details. Yes, Received 28 fragments in face and right arm.
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 8th AF
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 388 B. GP. 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) Bombardier
7. Date of Birth 3 Aug 1915 8. Length of Service 2yr. 9mos.
9. Peace time occupation life insurance 10. Private address 331 W. Illinois St. Dallas, Texas
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

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 BALE OUT.

15. Post in Crew Bombardier
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>A. Kramer</u> | <u>Unknown</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>Swap</u> | <u>"</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>R. Bowman</u> | <u>" Wounded</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>Narrator</u> | <u>"</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>Priebe</u> | <u>Safe</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>Martin</u> | <u>"</u> |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>J. Thomas</u> | <u>Dead</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>Vickles</u> | <u>Safe</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | <u>Soukp</u> | <u>"</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>Chapman</u> | <u>"</u> |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure. B-17, 6 sept 43 0500
18. Where and when did you come down? 50 km E. of Troyes
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Gave to French
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Believe plane burned

Interview by I.S.9. (WEA)

Date 3 Sept 1944

Attached:

Appendix XXX
Appendix XXX
Appendix XXX

Disposal: Returned to unit.

I grade this evasion No.5

Edward P Arnold
Capt a/c Major

This evader did use his aids box which proved helpful in his evasion. He also carried a Brown purse and the money was used ofr food. He was briefed in his base in England. Mot much help in the evasion.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1405

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-669984 Rank 2d Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) BURNETT, Robert L.

Unit 388 B. Gp. 8th AF

has been fully/~~properly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on 3 sept 1944 19 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Edward P. Arnold
EDWARD P. ARNOLD

Capt, AC

Major

IMPORTANT:

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

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks Street, London.

44-1405

CONFIDENTIAL.

Missing since ~~Sept~~ 6 1943
8th Air Force

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-669984 Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Robert L. Burnett

Unit 388th Bomb Gr. 563rd Sq.

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

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Edward P. Arnold
Capt a.c. 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.