

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

Sechrist, Edwin G. 1st Lt 0-811785
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: RR. at TOURS

Date mission in action: June 8th 44

17 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: Sept. 3, 44

568th 390th
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT	<u>Sechrist, E.G.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	
CO-PILOT	<u>Duncan, John</u>	<u>0-817641</u>	-	<u>Unknown</u>
		<u>2d Lt, MIA</u>		
NAVIGATOR	<u>Turmenne, V.G.A.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1410</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>Wilson, H.F.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1415</u>
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>Louis, L.D.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1412</u>
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>Caldwell, M.A.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1411</u>
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>Oye, W.W.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1413</u>
WAIST GUNNER	<u>Tucker, R.F.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1414</u>
WAIST GUNNER	<u>Ruta, M.</u>	-	<u>Evaded</u>	<u>1414</u>
TAIL GUNNER	<u>Helps, David</u>	<u>2d Lt 0-814913</u>	-	<u>Believed killed - French rumor</u>

we all evaded together

Saw name at 9th Air Force Hq was with Ruta too

Decorations:

Air medal

Date of Birth:

April 3rd 1921

Private Address:

660 W. Washington Ave. Elmira, N.Y.

Length of Service:

2 years

Job as Civilian:

Student

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

Framingham 390th B Gr. 0530

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details.

Yes Small wounds on upper lip, back of head and right elbow.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Yes 1400 francs

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

Did you have identity papers?

Yes

(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?

Yes

London Sept. 4th 44

Date of arrival in Spain: —

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: —

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

Air 9th Air Force HQ. Sept 3, 1944

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.

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) Edwin G. Sechrist Signed Edwin G. Sechrist
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0-811755 Dated Sept 4, 1944
Unit 568th Sq 390th B Co. Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ S05

122472

Turmenne: People told me to head for woods

AVRI
COURT
13 kms
NW of
Noyon

& met Seclercit. An old lady brought us
bread + beer. Germans watching the region
where we were hiding. The old lady returned
& told us Germans were going to institute a
search. So we moved off through woods
past LAGNY & slept out that night. Then
next morning we walked to CANECTAN-
COURT & approached a Portuguese who
told us to go to a house certain house.

a german
married
to a french
girl neighbor
D. ROGER
POES

A young man came up on bike + told us
he'd help us. He got ROBERT POES (Evry)
(Courtaucourt) who took us to his
brother ROGER POES who gave us clothes
& got his father-in-law, HENRI
COURVOURD who lives at EVRICOURT.

Here met
at THERIEN
PIERRE
GOULI, in
FFI de LAGNY,
head of
resistance
in AISNE
(had
Wallace's
crew)

That afternoon a schoolmaster from
CANECTAN COURT had been member of
RR syndicate who said the railway line
for evaders had been stopped fifteen days
before + all civilian cars stopped
that day. COURVOURD took us to his
home, MOULIN D'EPINOYE, EVRICOURT
(dis). For ^{13 day} ~~one week~~ he us (13 June to 26
June) he moved us to LEON BAYARD
Les Bocages near THIESCOURT; ~~but~~ but
we stayed most of the time with COURVOURD

and stayed there until 22 August.
 Then Thibault got us + the rest of our
 crew + took nine of us + picked up
 others + took us to the woods in
 near BEAUVAIS - 5 kms S of AUNEUIL,
 near ^{Lucien's} Ravel's chateau. Ravel fed us
 all, 18 of us there (3 English + 15 Americans),
 [1 S. African captured at
 El Alamein escaped from
 P/w camp at Coblenz].

Same
 as
 Lewis,
 Oge,
 Rutz,
 Wilson,
 + Caldwell

~~Footnote~~ On 30 August the British
 arrived. An ^{American} lieutenant from IS9
 arrived + was to get us a truck. But
 we got hitch to Beauvais. From there we
 got a ride to a petrol dump. Thence to
 DREUX. Here at an airstrip we got ^{transportation}
 to an airfield near VERSAILLES, a
 US A.F. HQ where Capt. Huria gave
 us ^{verbal} orders + transportation to U.K.
 Arrived at 63 Brook St. 3 Sept.

To COURVOISIER family.

JEANNOT, ARE THE DOGS DEAD -
 In French. BBC French program.

FROM dog TAGS:

John R BERNERT

0676866 T43

MRS R H BERNERT

628 LAWSON AVE

Stewbenville, Ohio

French people story:

shot down by Me109 AT 930 ON
July 5, 1944. On reaching the pilot,
the people found him dying, he
was shot thru the throat. He
died when his MASK WAS REMOVED.
THE PILOT (RANK NOT NOTICED) WAS
FLYING A WHITE NOSE MUSTANG
(PSI). BURIED AT BEAUVAIS, (Oise)
FRANCE, SHOT DOWN IN VILLAGE
OF PORCHEUX (Oise). People say
he also had a SMASH FOOT AND
A BROKEN WRIST. PLACE BURIED
WAS GERMAN MILITARY CEMETRY
IN BEAUVAIS. The body was
TURNED OVER TO THE GERMANS
with his dog tags.

STORY OBTAINED FROM THE FAMILY
OF MICHEL JAUVEN, FARMER

Porcheux, Oise. (THE KNOWN EXACT LOCATION
OF BURIAL PLACE OF THE BODY)

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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

Plane said to have returned.

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

Unknown - followed bail out order

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 3000'

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

Yes

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

Pilot, Eng. both waist gunners Bombardier
Nav. Radio ball T Tail g. believed to have been killed - chute burned.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Killed - chute burned.

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

Yes

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.

Yes. we all saw each other late on, except
Tuckers. French people told us that 1 chute burned
& plane exploded. other Frenchmen said plane returned

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

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?

8 alive & back in UK.

1 dead - French rumor

1 man & plane - unknown. French say radio reported plane returned. Others say it exploded.

APPENDIX "D" TO B AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Sechrist, Edwin E. 1st Lt

Unit:-

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? *2349*
- 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. *Yes*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *Yes*

Milk (tube). *-*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *No*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *Yes - while in woods*

Matches. *Yes*

Adhesive tape. *Yes*

Chewing gum. *Yes*

Water bottle. *Yes*

Compass. *Yes*

Sewing kit. *No*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Gave it to French people*
- 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *Red "F"*
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? *France*

Compass. *Yes*

File (hacksaw). *No*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *France 2000 Francs*
How did you spend the money? *Tobacco*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. } *still have them*

Compass. } *still have it*

File (hacksaw). } *still have it*

Surplus currency.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

Yes

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many? *8*

Yes

b. Did you use them? *Yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Yes

Framlingham June unknown

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?

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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.,.....)

radar - radar station in Noyon destroyed by
FF I in June

Air field at Ami destroyed by bombing Aug.

Ami was at one time an ammunition
dump.

Enemy & civilian morale very bad