

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 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.
3. *b* You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
4. *c* You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
5. *d* You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.
6. *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) TURMENNE, VITAL G. E.
Rank 2nd LT A. S. N. 0-698160
Unit 568th B. Signal 396 Bomb Gp.

Signed Vital G. E. Turmenne
Dated September 4, 1943
Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

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RESTRICTED

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

TURMENN, VITAL G. E. 2nd LT 0698/60
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: TOURS

Date mission in action: JUNE 8, 44

11 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: APRIL 14, 1944

568 Bomb 390th Bomb
(Squadron) (H) (Group) (H)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT 1st LT Edvin G. Sechrist

EVADED
UNKNOWN

CO-PILOT JAMES DUNCAN, 2nd LT

EVADED

NAVIGATOR VITAL G. E. TURMENN, 2nd LT

EVADED

7099 helio
BOMBARDIER HENRY Ford Wilson

EVADED

RADIO OPERATOR Louis, LD

EVADED

TOP TURRET GUNNER Merryl Caldwell

EVADED

BALL TURRET GUNNER W.W. Oge

EVADED - SAW NAME AT 9th AF HQ

WAIST GUNNER Tucker, RF

EVADED } Body seen by French people

WAIST GUNNER RUTA, M

TAIL GUNNER HELPS, DH

Believed killed

Decorations: —

Date of Birth: JUNE 6, 1922

Private Address: 281 BATES ST Lewiston, Me

Length of Service: 21 months Active service

Job as Civilian: shipfitter's helper

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

390th Bldg FRAMINGHAM 530 AM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details.

yes, piece of FLAK over right eyes

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

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

Did you have identity papers?

Dog tags

(over)

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

No, only on what I knew that might help us against the enemy.
at 9th AF HQ.

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?

Sept. 4, 1944 London

Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

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

September 3, BY AIR 9th AIR FORCE HQ, 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.

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?

DON'T KNOW. Followed. PAILOUT ORDER

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

3000 feet

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

NAVIGATOR, got piece of FLAK OVER RIGHT EYE
PILOT

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

PILOT ENGR WAISTGUNNERS BOMBARDIER
NAV RADAR BALLTORRET GUNNER [TAILGUNNER believed
to have parachute shot up
AND KILLED

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

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. ALL SAW EACH OTHER. EXCEPT TUCKER. FRENCH PEOPLE INSIST
PLANE WENT BACK. REPORT BY FRENCH PEOPLE WAS THAT TAIL GUNNER
WAS KILLED. BALLTORRET SAW PLACE WHERE TG WAS BURIED.

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

No. UNKNOWN

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?

FRENCH PEOPLE INSIST PLANE GOT BACK WITH COPILOT. UNDER
GROUND SAID TO HAVE RECEIVED MESSAGE THAT THE PLANE GOT
BACK.
8 - MEMBERS EVADED - 1 - RETURNED (COPILOT)
1 - BELIEVED KILLED.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *LT VITAL G.E. TURMENNE 0-698160*

Unit:- *568th Bomb Sqdn 390th Bomb Grp.*

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. *yes*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. —

Milk (tube). —

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *no*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *yes*

Matches. *yes*

Adhesive tape. *yes - cut*

Chewing gum.

Water bottle. *yes - drunk and purifier water*

Compass. *yes - 1st night*

Sewing kit. *yes - repair button*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

yes

- 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. 2000 FRANCES FRANCE
How did you spend the money?

TOBACCO

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. STILL HAVE FRANCE MAP. GAVE NAFRICA TO

Compass. LOST AMERICAN SERGEANT

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?
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

3

YES

5. LECTURES

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

Yes, Dovingdon - April 1944 - 2nd STEVADec

FRAMINGHAM - Sgt escaped
TOOMBER
MANY

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?

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.,.....)

RADIO STATION NEAR NOYON (oise) BURNED UP BY FF1 IN
JUNE

ARMY AIRFIELD DESTROYED BY INCENDIARIES - AUGUST
THIS FIELD USED TO BE BOMB DUMP. PLANES USED
TO COME IN ARMY JUST FOR BOMBS.

GERMAN MORALE VERY LOW.

FRENCH CIVILIAN MORALE VERY GOOD.