

~~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.

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) RUTA, MICHAEL

Signed Michael Ruta

Rank S/SGT A. S. N. J-2820841

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 390 Bomb BR 568 BOMB. SQD.

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

~~RESTRICTED~~

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

RUTA MICHAEL S/SGT 320841  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
19 (No. of missions)  
568 390  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 6/8/44  
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. EDWARD SELHRIST</u>	<u>BACK IN U.K.</u>
CO-PILOT	<u>2ND LT. JAMES DUNCAN</u>	<u>DONT KNOW</u>
NAVIGATOR	<u>2ND LT. VITAL TERMENNE</u>	<u>BACK IN U.K.</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>S/SGT HENRY F. WILSON</u>	<u>" " "</u>
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>T/SGT LOUIS LEWIS</u>	<u>" " "</u>
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>T/SGT. MACK CALDWELL</u>	<u>" " "</u>
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>S/SGT. WENDELL W. JOE</u>	<u>" " "</u>
R. WAIST GUNNER	<u>S/SGT ROBERT TUCKER</u>	<u>" " "</u>
L. WAIST GUNNER	<u>S/SGT. MICHAEL RUTA</u>	<u>" " "</u>
TAIL GUNNER	<u>S/SGT. DAVID HELPS</u>	<u>DONT KNOW</u>

Decorations: AIR MEDAL

Date of Birth: 6-11-44

Private Address: 367 EAST 144ST. BRONX, NEW YORK

Length of Service: 18 months.

Job as Civilian: STUDENT

From what field did you take off? Take off time. DONT KNOW FRAMMINGHAM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? DONT KNOW

Were you wounded? Give details. NO

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

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

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?  
YES 63 BROOK ST.

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. 9TH AIR FORCE HQ  
9-3-44

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.

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

RUTA MICHAEL Sgt 32820841  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

9-4-44  
(Date)

390 BOMB GRP 578 BOMB SQR.  
(Unit)

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

6-8-44 15 MILES

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

DONT KNOW NORTH EAST OF NOYON

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 4500

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

DONT KNOW

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

P. ENG. RO. B.T.O. G.W. P.W.  
NAV.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

DONT KNOW

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

DONT KNOW

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

DONT KNOW

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

DONT KNOW

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 reason for his opinion?

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *RUTA, MICHAEL S/SGT. 32820841*  
Unit:- *390 BOMB. GRP. 568 B. S.*

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.

*INCLUDE A DICTIONARY CONTAINING THE LANGUAGE ACCORDING TO WHERE THE MISSION IS TO*

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. *WHILE HIDING FOR TWO NIGHTS*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *" " " "*

Milk (tube). *" " " "*

Denzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches. *" " " " FOR CIGARETTES*

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. *" " " "*

Water bottle. *NO*

Compass. *" " " "*

Sewing kit. *NO*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *BURIED IT*
- 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. *~~BROWN~~ RED F*  
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse? *LOST IT WHEN RAINED OUT*

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

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.,.....)

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