

MIA 14 June

REF 1454

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 38326562 Rank S/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) ERNEST L. SMITH

Unit 457 Bomb Gp, 749 Sqdn, 8th Air Force

has been fully/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 1 Sep 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate. *He should not be considered suspect*

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

Upon arrival in U.K. you must report to 63 Brook St, London

Major, *J.F.*

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.

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) EARNEST L. SMITH Signed Earnest L. Smith
Rank S/1st A. S. N. 38326562 Dated _____
Unit 457th Bomb Sq 249th Bomb Sq Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

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Name (Print) EARNEST L. SMITH Signed Earnest L. Smith
Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 38326562 Dated _____
Unit 457th Bomb. Sq. 749th Bomb. Sq. Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

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 4, 1944
(Date)

SMITH, EARNEST L. S/SGT. 38326562
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

unfiled //
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: June 14, 1944

Returned to UK: Sept 3, 1944

457th Bomb Grp 749 B. Sqn
(Unit)

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

PILOT ROY W. ALLEN 1st Lt.
CO-PILOT VERNE H. LEWIS 2nd Lt.
NAVIGATOR JOSEPH C. BRUSSE 2nd Lt.
BOMBARDIER LAWRENCE (NMI) ANDERSON
RADIO OPERATOR EARNEST L. SMITH
TOP TURRET GUNNER ROY E. PLUM
MID TURRET GUNNER WILLIAM E. GOLDSBOROUGH -
R. WAIST GUNNER JOHN M. MILLER
L. WAIST GUNNER LEONARD S. HENSON
TAIL GUNNER GORDON (?) LONG

See
TAG
1196

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. JUNE 14, 1944, 09:15

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

Large hole into Radio Room + Tail. Control cables severed

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 18-20000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? no.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? all, not certain

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?

yes, Henson, Long, Miller + Goldsborough
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.

Saw Lt. Allen's picture and knew that all others were
(over) in patriot hands

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?

Senson returned with me - all crew members

Were you wounded? *no*

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.

What security briefing were you given? *U.K. Showed roughly in U.S. and*

What souvenirs do you still possess? *_____*

Home address. *Rt 4 Box 207 Okmulgee Okla*

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.

all members of crew excepting Senson & myself.

SECRET

E. & T. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/146/732 TOP SECRET



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

EVASION CAPTURED ~~XXXXXX~~ FROM (Name of Country) France

For all Personnel.

- 1. No. 38326562 Rank s/sgt Name Ernest L. Smith
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 11 Missions; no decorations
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. NO
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 794 sqn
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 457 Bomb GP 8 AF Job. (Pl. Cnd., Rfn., etc.) Radio Oper.
- 7. Date of Birth 10 March 1918 8. Length of Service 21 mos
- 9. Peace time occupation farmer & mechanic 10. Private address Rt 4, Okmulgee, Okla.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? two sets photos, dog tags
- 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 Radio Operator
- 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
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR Narrator (See IS9(WEA)7/145 for data on remainder of crew)
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAKE GUNNER (R.)
- WAKE GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17, Clatton, England, 14 Jun 44, 0700 hrs.
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Near Provins, France, 14 Jun 44
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hid when landed
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? I don't know. Radio destroyed

Interview by I.S.9. (WEA)
Date 1 sep 44
I grade this evasion No. 5

- Attached:
- Appendix "B"
 - Appendix "C" ✓
 - Appendix "D"

IRVIN H. LUITEN
Major, Inf.

Major

Disposal: Returned to Unit in UK...

- DISTRIBUTION:
- HQ, IS9(WEA) 3 ✓
 - G-2, FUSA 1 (less "C")
 - G-2, TUSA 1 (" ")
 - 12th Army GP 2 (" ")
 - File 1

SECRET

HIT BY
FLAK

Our target on 14 June was an airfield near Paris. It was so overcast that we could not bomb the field; so we went for our secondary target. The bomb bay doors were open when we were hit by flak, and the control cables were severed.

The pilot gave us orders to bale out somewhere in the vicinity of Provins. Henson, Long, Goldsborough, Miller and myself all landed in the same area, near a little village called Bannost.

Some Frenchmen were waiting for us when we hit the ground, and we were all in their hands within about 10 minutes.

GET HELP
FROM FRENCH

Henson and I were taken by the French to a little alfalfa field where we hid our equipment and stayed until that night. After dark a wagon filled with hay came by and food was tossed to us by the driver. That same night we were taken to a cafe in Bannost where we found Long, Goldsborough and Miller safe in the hands of the French. We stayed in a room above this cafe for three days.

On 17 June a woman who could speak English came to see us and made arrangements to have us taken to deserted farmhouse. We had been given civilian clothes while we were still in the alfalfa field. The deserted farmhouse we were taken to was almost an arsenal--- it contained all sorts of arms and ammunition that the French had been storing. We were left there to guard the place, each of us having been given a sub-machine gun and a .45 pistol.

We were later taken to Nangis where we stayed for five days in a room above a sugar refinery. (Nangis, S-5107, 1/250,000, France)

GESTAPO
SEARCHES
HOMES

Henson and I left Nangis about 21 June, with Miller, Long and Goldsborough staying behind. We were taken to Montigny (X-6694). On 18 June the Gestapo from Bray sur Seine to search homes in Montigny, and we had to be moved again.

On 22 June we rode 140 kilometers by bicycle to Lagny (S-3243). We had to use our benzadrine tablets from our escape kits to keep us going. We stayed there two days and were then moved again, this time to Dampart (S-3444) where we remained until the American troops arrived.

A priest in Montigny told us that seven RAF men shot down in the vicinity had been buried in the village by the French.

I had left my escape kit and purse in the plane. Henson and I split up the contents of his purse and escape kit. The purse was striped with red. We gave the money to our French helpers, and burned the escape maps. We were both briefed on escape and evasion in England as well as in the States.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 WEA/7/146/732

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 38326562 Rank s/Sgt Name Ernest L. Smith

Date of Interview 1 Sep 1944

While at Bannost (S-6619) a Madame Reist came to see us. She had taught school for 10 years in Detroit, Michigan, and could speak good English.

A man by the name of Pierre Dimache took us from Nangis to ~~Montigny-lez-Tours~~ ^{Bray sur Seine} ~~Montigny (X-6686)~~. We stayed at the home of Monsieur and Madame John Jardin. From there we went to Montigny (X-6686) where we stayed ~~at the~~ at the home of a priest, who was hiding two German deserters, one Belgium, as well as us.

At Dampart we stayed with a baker by the name of Simon Place, Rue du Chateaux, Dampart, Seine et Marne. We were the 18th airmen he had hidden.

TOP SECRET