

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Peterson, Robert W. S/Sgt. 37295299
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Sept. 4, 1944
(Date)

487th B. Grp. 838th Spdn.
(Unit)

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

May 11, 1944 14:15 La Forche, France

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

Three engines shot out & fuselage riddled.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

7,000 to 9,000

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

Yes Bombardier - two flak wounds - head & leg

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

All are believed to have bailed out according to French farmers

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 - Five others

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.

No

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

No

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?

I believe that all but two escaped & they were wounded - Information from French

*Peterson
File
1511*

R E S T R I C T E D
MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN CONSULATE
GIBRALTAR

3 September 1944

E X T R A C T

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER.....42)

1. Pursuant to authority contained in WD Cablegram, Number 45, dated 4 February 1943, the officer named below, having reported at this station on 2 September 1944, is placed on temporary duty at this station. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to _____ where you will report to the Commanding General

U.S.Army. In lieu of reimbursement for actual expenses a payment of a flat per diem of \$5.00 exclusive of transportation charges is authorized while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty at this station, in accordance with existing law and regulations.
TDM 88-116 P 432-02 A 212/5-425.

2nd Lt. JOHN B. WOOD Jr O-814477 489th Bn.Grp.

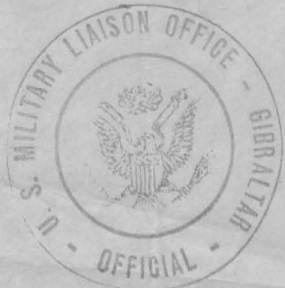
2. Pursuant to authority contained in WD Cablegram, Number 45, dated 4 February 1943, the enlisted man named below, having reported to this station on 2 September 1944, is placed on temporary duty at this station. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to _____ where you will report to the Commanding General

U.S.Army. You will be entitled to monetary allowances in lieu of quarters and subsistence furnished, according to Executive Order No.9386, dated 15 October 1943, for subsistence at the rate of three (\$3.00) dollars per day and for quarters at the rate of two (\$2.00) dollars per day, while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty at this station, in accordance with existing law and regulations.
TDM 88-116 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

S/Sgt. ROBERT W. PETERSON 37295299 497th Bn.Grp.

Distribution.

Personnel concerned
File



HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Mil. Lie. Officer

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 388.6 (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 388.6 (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) Peterson, Robert W.

Signed Robert W. Peterson

Rank S/1st Lt. A. S. N. 37295299

Dated Sept. 6, 1944

Unit 487 Group 838 Spdn.

Witness W. H. J. in 1st Lt. Ref

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

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.,.....)

None

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The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

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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.

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By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J.A. ULIO
J.A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)

1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) *Peterson, Robert W.* Signed *Robert W. Peterson*
 Rank *S/1 Sgt.* A.S.N. *37295299* Dated *Sept 2, 44* Place *Gibraltar*
 Unit *487 B. Group 838 Spdn* Witness *H. W. Forster*

HORACE W. FORSTER,
 Colonel, G.S.C.,
 U. S. Mil. Lia. Off. 24-88068-12W

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 37295299 S/Sgt. Peterson, Robert W.
 Unit:- 487th Bomb Group 838th Bomb Sqdn.

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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
 e. How did you finally dispose of the box? Left it in cave where change of clothes was made.
 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? Carried money loose in pocket.
 State color of stripes and letters.
 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.
How did you spend the money?

Belgium & Netherland
\$20
French \$20

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Left in cave

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency. Turned in at Barcelona

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

No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? Yes

If so, how many?

12

b. Did you use them?

Yes for Identity card

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Herington, Kansas - March 1944 - England - April

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?

I believe that the war is too far along.

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

Peterson, Robert W. S/Sgt. 37295299
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 5-11-44

Date arrived in UK: 9-4-44

3 (No. of missions)

838th (Squadron) 487th (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

Air Leader - Lt. Col. Bernie Lay - No Knowledge

PILOT 1st Lt. F. Vratny - No Knowledge

CO-PILOT 2nd Lt. W. Duet - " "

NAVIGATOR 1st Lt. H. Richter - Successful evasion - Was told in Gibraltar

Sqn. Nav. BOMBARDIER Capt. Wilson - No Knowledge

RADIO OPERATOR Capt. Hodger - Wounded & believed captured - told by french people

TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. W. Hlich - No Knowledge

BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. J. Watson - " "

WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. L. Heimerman - " "

WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. H. Pelletier - " "

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Crew 1036

Decorations: None

Date of Birth: June 25, 1921

Private Address: 5841 - 28th Avenue South - Minneapolis
Minnesota, U.S.A.

Length of Service: 2 yrs. 2 months

Job as Civilian: Tile Setters Helper

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

Lavenham, England

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Were you wounded? Give details. No

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

Do you speak FRENCH? A very little SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? No

Did you have identity papers? Yes

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

Yes - Br. Int. - Barcelona — Br. Liaison Officer - Gibraltar

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 - Barcelona - British - Madrid - British & American

Date of arrival in Spain:

Aug 22, 1944

Gibraltar - American Military Attache

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Sept. 2

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

Gibraltar Sept. 4, 1944

Air

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.

S/Sgt. Robert W. Peterson — "c"

I was crew member of a heavy bomber shot down near LA FOURCHE, SW of PARIS, on 11 May 1944. With S/Sgts WATSON and HEIMERMAN of my crew, I walked to CONDÉ. The caretaker of the cemetery in CONDÉ hid us in a cave for 3 days. He brought food, which he said was donated by 6 families in the town. He was a very small man, with large moustache, red face, middle-aged. A French officer (?) in civilian clothes fixed papers for us and said he was arranging to take us to Paris. We were then taken by a guide to Paris, and placed in a Children's (refugee) school in the E. suburbs of town. We stayed here 6 days, ~~waiting for a train to Paris~~. The people here were an old lady with a daughter, a son, and son-in-law. I was moved around to several other places, then to the house of MME CHRISTOL at 4 Rue Edouard, PARIS V^{ème}. I was there about 10 weeks (30 MAY TO 7 AUG). I was with Lt. RICTER at CHRISTOL'S, hearing no more about my other crew members. He left ~~for~~ with an organization chief^{on} about 7 July. Lt. WOOD, of another crew, then joined me. We left for Spain with a guide from Paris on 7 August. We got off the train at FOIX and went from here on foot. We spent a night in a house on a hillside above FERRIERS, owned by an old couple whose son took us across the mountains. We went to ANDORRA, then to ALP, then BARCELONA, then MADRID, then GIBRALTAR, then ENGLAND.

Field