

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

TARGET:

KNOPP LESTER W. S/SGT 39184861
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 10-14-43

6
(No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: 9-6-43

337th SQDN. 96th BOMB GR
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT R. F. HARMESON - DONT KNOW

CO-PILOT C. M. BAER - KILLED - FRENCH PEOPLE TOLD ME

NAVIGATOR V. E. CLARK - SAFE - TOP TURRET GUNNER TOLD ME

BOMBARDIER C. M. BRONNER - SAFE " " " " "

RADIO OPERATOR T. G. BERRY - PRISONER - I WAS WITH HIM

TOP TURRET GUNNER W. B. DUNNING - SAFE - SEEN HIM

BALL TURRET GUNNER J. B. JOLLY - SAFE - SEEN HIM

WAIST GUNNER L. W. KNOPP

WAIST GUNNER W. B. HOWELL - SAFE - RADIO OPERATOR - TOLD ME

TAIL GUNNER R. F. HENRY - PRISONER - SEEN HIM

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: 8-13-21

Private Address: ROUTE 2 BOX 76 VANCOUVER, WASH.

Length of Service: 2 YEARS.

Job as Civilian: SAW MILL WORKER.

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. SPRAINED ANKLE
YES

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

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

Did you have identity papers?
FOR A SHORT WHILE

(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?
NO

Date of arrival in Spain: 6-5-44 - RECAPTURED

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: —

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

TOLLOUSE 9-6-44

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

HARRY BOSSICK - R.A.F.

HARRY FISHER - R.A.F.

DONALD COURTENAY - R.A.F.

DONALD LINNIC - R.C. A.F.

TOLLY G. BERRY - A.A.F.

ROBERT HENRY - A.A.F.

SAUL HERSHKOWITZ - A.A.F.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

HARRY BOSSICK

HARRY FISHER

DONALD COURTENAY

DONALD LINNIC

SAUL HERSHKOWITZ

Hard hike en Barvois

c 10,000' mt. relief until 5000 - hit spruce at creek - rocks on
sides of hill

From by train ch't M - to forest - kept me until dark - took me
to valley - hike - then SB valley - to lake is all - 4 days.
To hotel in Barle Due - by train of valley - 2 days

Saw postmaster a chief in valley

Then separate - to put home for 1 day - to attend of town meet
Nice, By, woods to lake - to club I/P is not
Nice & Party together. c 2 weeks.

To attend of town for two more weeks.

Postmaster takes to Reims. Mail by - Champagne.

1. Home ~~Bera~~ in Paris 117 Rue de la Ponce - with Bengel
c 5 days.

Picked up in Pyrenes - c 2 hrs from Escala - to C, get 4 J's.
^{could be town.}

Marched to valley where I had by - not eat ^{break} coffee & drink coffee.

Then to Pyrenes / hotels - to stay by.

Chp with G - ask when land - no way not answer - to show for
say my family talk.

Then in cell - strip - search all clothes - then to night, have wear it
mullation head.

1800 coffee & to Paris by train - 4 gals in 1 hour in town -
no in air clothes.

Interrogate me G.

c 1700 on to train to Toulouse - to St Michel prison -

Reception room first - search clothes - then - Room with 19
others.

Then Bay & Henry - Lt Larson. Donald Kinney (Canadian).

P-27 p & P-38 p

Quarantine room - not answer - put in solitary for 9 days.

Beat up me. Son from Ohio (son in R.A.P.) after told me I was in
answer -

Not before left but by George Biffini - shipped out with
19 other SF

Put 5 in cell 3 beds for 5 into which get rid flea.

The small cell for 3 into - the cell 5 in 17 front of the

Start diet

Suggested to get Red + pants. - c/1 my 3 into - the new 6 into

C, gets - gray green uniforms - bad - better - at least 2 weeks.

Sand / humidity in c 10 days

19 May released by FBI - open gates

Met G. G. M.

Stay 9 Rue La Fontaine -

Lv for new Toulouse front -

Only son in pp

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.

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) Knopp LESTER W.

Signed Lester W. Knopp

Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 39184861

Dated 9-6-44

Unit 96th Bomb GR. 337th SQD.

Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SOS

1/224 72

RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 39184861 S/SGT. KNOPP, LESTER W.
Unit:- 96th BOMB GR 337th 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? NO
- b. If not, why? DIDN'T NEED IT
- 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? BURNED
- 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. DON'T KNOW
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. *NONE*
Which ones? *NONE*

Compass, *NO*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *1000 FRANKS, BELGIUM*
How did you spend the money? *NETHERLANDS*

d. How did you dispose of:- *GERMANS TOOK IT*

Maps. *UNDERGROUND TOOK IT*

Compass. *BROKEN*

File (hacksaw). *LOST*

Surplus currency. *GERMANS TOOK IT*

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

ONE SMALL COMPASS

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them? *YES*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *NO*
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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MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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Pilot,	0-421510,	1st Lt,	Robert Harold HARMESON	MIA
Copilot,	0680382,	2d Lt,	Charles Malcolm BAER	MIA R/D
NAV,	0736622,	2d Lt,	Vernon Edward CLARK	R/D
Bomb	0671236,	2d Lt,	Charles Peter BROWNER	MIA
RO,	37385779,	T/Sgt,	Tollie Gerald BERRY	P/W
TTC	32288613,	T/Sgt,	Wm B. DUNNING, JR	R/D
BTC,	17035621,	S/Sgt,	JAY BARTINE Jolley	P/W
WG,	39184861,	S/Sgt,	LESTER W. KNOPP (1526)	R/D
WG,	34038449,	S/Sgt,	Wm Boyd Howell	P/W
TG,	33256368,	S/Sgt,	Robert Franklin HENRY (MIA)	

96 Cps - 10-14-43

1526

S/Sgt Lester W KNOOP, 39184861, 337/96 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 14 Oct 43
Intrvd 6 Sept 44

Knopp landed near Lisle en Barrois N of Bar le Duc, having delayed his jump rather well. He sprained his right ankle in landing. Some Frenchmen took him to a forest, kept him until dark, and then took him to the village of Lisle where he met J B Jolly of his crew, whose ankle was broken. After four days they went with a farmer of the village to a hotel in Bar le Duc. They saw a postmaster who seemed to be a chief in the organization. They were separated. Knopp went to someone's house for a day and then to the other end of town where he met ²⁸⁷Bye and ¹¹²Nice and ²⁴⁴Woodside, E&E. Then Nice and he stayed together for about two weeks. The postmaster about 27 took him to Mailly-Champagne, and from there on his story is the same as Nice for an awfully long time. See E&E.

In Paris he went to Mme Bera, #17 Rue de la Pompe, staying for about five days with Berglind, ¹¹³E&E.

As related in E&E (Berglind) et al Knopp was picked up in the Pyrenees a couple of miles from Isaba. He could see the town. He and the others were marched to a village where the Germans had a hq. Then he was taken to Pyrenees Hotale, apparently a Gestapo hq. An English speaking man asked him where he had landed. He was sorry that he could not talk. He was then told that there were ways of making him talk. He was taken to a cell, searched carefully, and put in an empty house for over night. The next day he went by Pau in a truck, stopped at a house in town where men in civilian clothes were about, and waited while one of the English officers was interrogated. He went to Toulouse by a German troop train and was put in St Michel prison. He was there with ²³⁸Berry, Henry, Larson, E&E, and a Canadian, Donald Linney, a P-46 P and a P-38 P. He was questioned on his experiences and when he would not reply was put in solitary confinement for about nine days. An American from Ohio serving in the RAF was supposed to have been beaten up after he told a number of lies about his experiences in answer to the routine questioning.

The night before An Englishman, George Griffin, was shipped out with about 19 airmen, among whom were probably, alas, Lorch and Kukawaski, long awaited. Knopp met Herschkowitz, ^{14/18} E&E, in prison. The German guards seemed to be Wehrmacht man and up until the last couple of weeks were pretty nasty.

On 19 Aug the FF^I liberated the prison. For the next few days Knopp stayed at 9 Rue Lafontaine. He was flown back by night, the only American in the group who returned with him.

DEE

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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

OCT. 14 1943 - 18 KILOMETER FROM BAR-LE-DUC

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc? NUMBER 2 ENGINE ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? - 10000

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

YES - CO-PILOT KILLED

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

ALL YES

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? BEFORE

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.

CO-PILOT KILLED BY A GERMAN PLANE WHICH RAN INTO HIM WHILE IN HIS PARACHUTE

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

DEMOLISHED

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? - IN THE SAME ORGANISATION

AS A