

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-751152 Rank 2d Lt.

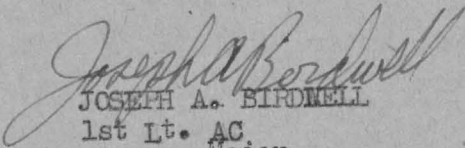
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) KOSSEFF, William

Unit 548 B. SQ. 185 B. GP.

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)

on 9 sep 44 19 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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


JOSEPH A. BIRDWELL

1st Lt. AC
Major

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9
OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks
Street, London.

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

EVADED CAPTURED/~~ESCAPED~~ FROM (Name of Country) Belgium

For all Personnel.

1. No. 0-751152 Rank 2d Lt. Name KOSSETT, William
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S) 8
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 8
3. Were you wounded? Give details. small piece of flak in left thigh.
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 548 B. Sq.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 385 B. GP. 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) C/P
7. Date of Birth 29 May 1923 8. Length of Service 2yrs. 10 mos.
9. Peace time occupation Student 10. Private address 601 E. 19th St.
Brooklyn, New York
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? dogtags
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 Co-Pilot
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 1st Lt. B.N. Horstman
- CO-PILOT Narrator
- NAVIGATOR 2d Lt. V.E. Kisinger
- BOMBARDIER S/Sgt J.D. Hanson
- RADIO OPERATOR S/Sgt A.L. Seely All the crew, UNKNOWN
- TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt A.S. Swider
- BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt O.J. Boskey
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) S/Sgt Millner
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt J.V. Galian
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17G Great Ashfield, 4 Feb. 8 AM
18. Where and when did you come down? 10km NE DeHasselt, Belgium 1300 hrs
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? civilians took it.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? I don't know

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)

Date 9 Sept 1944

I grade this evasion No. 5

Attached:

- Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "D"

JOSEPH A. BIRDWELL
1st Lt., AC

Disposal: Returned to UK

Major

DISTRIBUTION:

- Hq I.S.9WEA...2
- 12 Army Group...2 (less CG)
- 9th AF...1

We were hit in the left wing by a burst of flak and were unable to fly straight. We bailed out from 26,000 ft with a solid undercast down to the ground and very low visibility on the ground. As soon as I landed some people came and took my chute and mae west and told me to leave. After walking for 3 or 4 hours, I came to a farmhouse on a paved road with a tramway. When I explained what I was, they took me in, fed me, and gave me civilian clothes. They took me in, fed me, and gave me civilian clothes. The next day I left for Brussels with a Belgian guide and a Dutch boy who escaped from work in Germany. He is Matthein Rubens Steenweg 204, Pankeel, By Roermond Holland. We took a tram to Hasslet and a train to Tirlemont where I stayed with Mme. Thomas, 24 Blvd de Cabbeck. The next day we went to Brussels and stopped at the Hotel Amsterdam, Nord Straat, and the next day at another place. We stayed with Mme Moreaux and her daughter Andree Moreaux, friends of the leader of the district who planned us. He is M. Georges Tromme Rue de Erasme, Anderlecht Brussels. On the 8 Feb. we came to the house of M. Gaston Lyneel 434 chaussee de Mons Anderlecht. And remained there for the remainder of the time. After two weeks the Dutch boy left and I was joined by Lt. G.P. Dechambre.

For the first week of July we went to the next house because a girl by the name of MARIE THERESE HURTS, asked for 20,000fr., threatening to turn us over. After a week we returned. We stayed all the time with the son of M. Lyneel, Jean Lyneel who was also hiding from the Germans. We were also helped very much by M. Georges Auginer, 115 Blvd Brand Whitlock.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)6/479//664

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

No. 0-751152 Rank 2d Lt. Name KOSSEFF, William

Date of Interview 9 Sept 1944

Matthien Bubens Steenweg, 204 Pankeel, Ey Roermond Holland

Mme Thomas, 4 Blvd de Cabbeck Tirlamont

Mme and Andree Moreaux friends of the leader M. Georges Tromme Rue de Erasme,
Anderlecht Brussels

M. Gaston Lyneel, 434 Chausee de Mons. Anderlecht.

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN

(Date)

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 4 February 1944
Arrived in UK: _____

548 Bomb Sq, 385 Bomb Group A/C #42-31355
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-746349	1st Lt Billy N HORSTMAN	P/W	
CO-PILOT	0-751152	2d Lt William (NMI) KOSSEFF	MIA	1800
NAVIGATOR	0-674681	2d Lt Vernon E KISINGER	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	32518092	S/Sgt John P HANSON	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	11115008	S/Sgt Albert L SEELY	P/W	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	33087688	T/Sgt Alexander S SWIDER	INTERNEED	1576
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18114921	S/Sgt Otto V ROSKEY	INTERNEED	2426
WAIST GUNNER	17090552	S/Sgt Earl (NMI) FLAHERTY	P/W	
WAIST GUNNER	38288809	S/Sgt Paul W MILLNER	P/W	
TAIL GUNNER	35477362	S/Sgt James V GILLIAM	P/W	

Were you wounded?

Check P/W file

S E C R E T

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(WEL) PERSONNEL.

Sept 10, 1944
(Date)

KOSSEFF, WILLIAM 2nd Lt 0751152
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFORT 8
(Target) (Number of missions)

548 Bomb Sq 385 Bomb Gp
(Unit)

Date Missing in Action: Feb 4, 1944

Returned to UK: Sept 9, 1944

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

PILOT	<u>BILLY N. HORSTMAN</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>FATE UNKNOWN</u>
CO-PILOT	<u>—</u>		
NAVIGATOR	<u>VERNON E. KISINGER</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>" "</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>JOAN P. HANSON</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>" "</u>
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>ALBERT L. SEELY</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>" "</u>
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>ALEX S. SWIDER</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>(RETURNED)</u>
BELL TURRET GUNNER	<u>OTTO J. ROSKEY</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>" "</u>
WING GUNNER	<u>—</u>	<u>} substitutes</u>	<u>" "</u>
WING GUNNER	<u>—</u>		<u>" "</u>
TAIL GUNNER	<u>JAMES V. WILLIAM</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>" "</u>

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

FEB 4, 1944 1300 Hours 10 Km NE, HASSELT BELGIUM
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

FLAK BURST IN WING AT LEAST ONE (No 2) ENGINE OUT

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

26,000 FT

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

NOT KNOWN

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

" "

SAW ENGINEER LEAVE

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

" "

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

SAW TWO CHUTES IN AIR

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.

No

(over)

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?

ALL HAD TIME TO GET OUT. I KNOW
AT LEAST FIVE OTHERS ARE ALIVE FROM ENGINEER
WHO RETURNED. NO FACTS OF MY OWN

Were you wounded?

SMALL PIECE OF FLAK IN LEFT THIGH

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?

STANDARD SECURITY BRIEFING IN PARIS

What souvenirs do you still possess?

FRENCH & BELGIAN MONEY

Home address.

601 E 19TH ST. BROOKLYN, N.Y.

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.

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 supercedes 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.

GERTIFIGATE

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) KOSSEFF, WILLIAM

Signed William Kosseff

Rank 2nd Lt A. S. N. D-751152

Dated SEPT 10, 1944

Unit 548 Bomb Sq 385 Bomb Gp

Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

RESTRICTED