

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.

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) ROBERT J. PIAROTE
Rank T. 1SGT. A. S. N. 13093716
Unit 385TH BOMB GRP. 549TH SQD.

Signed Robert J. Piarote
Dated Sept. 11, 1944
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

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(WEL.) PERSONNEL

SEPT. 11, 1944
(Date)

ROBERT J. PIAROTTE T/SGT. 13093716
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFURT SEVEN (7)
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: JAN. 29, 1944

Returned to UK: SEPT. 16, 1944

385TH BOMB GRP. 549TH BOMB SQD.
(Unit)

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

PILOT	RALPH H. PALMER	—	PRISONER
CO-PILOT	RYAL L. SKAGGS	—	DON'T KNOW
NAVIGATOR	WILLIAM POWELL	—	EVADING
BOMBARDIER	FRANK F. WIEZERZAK	—	PRISONER
RADIO OPERATOR	ROBERT J. PIAROTTE	—	LIBERATED
TOP TURRET GUNNER	ARTHUR M. PACHA	—	DON'T KNOW
BALL TURRET GUNNER	LEO J. REYNOLDS	—	DON'T KNOW
WLIST GUNNER	ALLEN D. PATTERSON	—	KILLED IN PLANE
WLIST GUNNER	WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS	—	EVADING
TAIL GUNNER	ELMORE S. LOVELAND	—	LIBERATED

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. 1944 JAN. 29 - 12PM. LOBBES BELGIUM

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
ALL THE CONTROLS SHOT AWAY AND ONE MOTOR OUT

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 16,000 FEET

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
ONE KILLED AND 3 WOUNDED

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
ALL BUT PATTERSON BAILED OUT AND THEIR CHUTES OPENED

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, POWELL, LOVELAND AND WILLIAMS

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.

I HAD LETTERS FROM ALL BUT PALMER
AND THEY WERE HIDING IN BELGIUM THE LAST I
(over) HEARD OF THEM

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.

PLANE CRASHED ON LAND

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

I WAS TOLD BY ~~THE UNIT~~ MY WAIST GUNNER
THAT PALMER AND WEIZERAK WERE TAKEN PRISONER
OTHERS I DON'T KNOW

Were you wounded?

YES

Were you in German hands?

YES

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? NOT TO TELL ANYBODY ANYTHING

What souvenirs do you still possess? PICTURES AND CIGARETTES

Home address. 38 SOUTH 8TH STREET LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

~~DON'T~~ RALPH H. PALMER
FRANK F. WEIZERAK

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

WILLIAM POWELL
WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS

SEP 1952

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 13093716 Rank T/SGT.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) ROBERT J PIAROTTE.

Unit 385 B 9p, 549 Sqn.

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on 11 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

R H Dams
21LT CAC
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)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) Belgium

For all Personnel.

1. No. 13093716 Rank T/Sgt. Name Robert J. PIAROTE
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S) Air Medal, 9 missions
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Wounded by 20 mm. cannon
3. Were you wounded? Give details 599 Bomb. Sqdn.
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 385 Bomb. Gp., 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Dfn., etc.) Radio Operator
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 12 Oct 1922 8. Length of Service 22 months
7. Date of Birth 38 South 8th Street
9. Peace time occupation Laborer 10. Private address Lekanon, Penna.
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 BAIL 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 | <u>Ralph Palmer</u> | <u>678 320</u> | <u>Belgians report (POW)</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>Ryal L. Skaggs</u> | <u>684067</u> | <u>Unknown</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>William Powell</u> | | <u>In Belgium in June</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>Francis Zerzak</u> | | <u>POW</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>Narrator</u> | | |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>Arthur M. Pacha</u> | <u>32232897</u> | <u>Unknown</u> |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>Leo Reynolds</u> | <u>32365470</u> | <u>Unknown</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>Allen O. Patterson</u> | | <u>Dead in plane</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | <u>William Williams</u> | | <u>In Belgium in June</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>Elmore Loveland</u> | | <u>Evaded</u> |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17F, Station 155, 29 Jan 1944
0830 hrs.
18. Where and when did you come down? Lobbos, Belgium, 29 Jan 1944, 1230 hrs.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left parachute in a tree and civilians got it. Hid mae west in leaves.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)

Date 11 Sep 1944

Attached:

Appendix "B"

Appendix "C"

Appendix "D"

I grade this escape No. 3.

Richard H. Dana
RICHARD H. DANA

2nd Lt., CAC

Major

purRBDisposal: Returned to unit.

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq. I.S.9 (WEA)....2

12th Army Group....2 (less C)

9 AF1

I came down near Lobbes, Belgium, at 1230, 29 January 1944. I was hidden and helped by friends until August 10, when I was taken prisoner with two helpers and spent 22 days in St. Gilles prison, Brussels. On the night of Sept 2-3 the Germans tried to evacuate us by train. One car got derailed and all 42 of us got out. S/Sgt. Ralph Lynch and 2 others left at 1400, 2 Sep. 39 went out about 0200 Sep 3, including William Cunningham (RCAF) and I. We opened the main door with an escape kit hacksaw. We got away near Scharbeer, and on Sep 3 got to the Hotel Metropole in Brussels, where we met the Americans.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/173/9/3

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

No. 13093716 Rank T/Sgt. Name Robert J. PIAROTE

Date of Interview 11 Sep 1944

I came down 29 Jan 1944 and hid in Lobbes, Belgium for one month. I stayed with Benoit Michui. Went to Thiun for one week and then to Bruxelles. Stayed in Bruxelles for seven weeks with Marie de Stobbriller, 140 Avenue de Karrush, Bruxelles. I later went to stay with Marce ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Flebus, 56 Rue American, Bruxelles for five weeks. Then moved to a farm at Gongrenes for one week, then to another farm belonging to Yvonne Suys, Thullembeer, Belge for nine weeks. Then I went to the house of Jules Versavel 100 Rue van Dennole, Wolvue-St. Pierre, Bruxelles for three weeks. This man and his daughter were taken prisoner with me on Aug 10. They were both beaten. They were liberated on 2 September 1944.

Interview by I.S.9 (WEA)

11 Sep 1944

I quote this source as, B.

Richard H. P. Name

2nd Lt., 2nd

DISTRIBUTION:

No. I.S.9 (WEA)...

11th Army Group... (Class 2)

9th Army...