

RESTRICTED

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) JOHN A. REITMEIER Signed John A. Reitmeier  
 Rank 1ST LT A.S.N. 0-800667 Dated SEPT 11, 44 Place BOOKS ST. LONDON  
 Unit 406 Bomb Sq 801 CP Witness [Signature] Capt. U.S.

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 Forces;  
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.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)

✓ Chenay le Chatel  
Rantmeier - int c 2500 - chit gun c 150' from good - hit a just - ch room  
on chit - deyst - crack of vertebra...

Walked S to dy lt - slept in woods - going to walk that out  
hit to sick - then to 1600 Sun - came to Chenay le Chatel

Circle town - met 3 young P-boys - they ask av - you son.  
To home - at - slept for hrs - like to Marcigny with me men

To small farm - Sun & Mon nts  
Early Mon am to Loddes with Antoni Buffet - stay 35 days  
at his home.

Met of many young people - preparing leave La palaysse to get arms.

Boy sent from Lyon take consalt in <sup>ind</sup>

Then to Roanne with Antoni - <sup>M. Picard</sup> young girl pick you on train

Met Br Int Agent - Gigi - a Mayor / RO Reine

To M <sup>Bato - head by but in area - to rest of P & Belgium</sup> Bossomade - 153 Rue de Paris, Roanne. <sup>I had 3 x-rays</sup>

30 days there - Mead there when got there. <sup>in long. (Gigi, try to make question - hit us - am)</sup>

Bossomade taken by Gestapo - ended up at St Etienne -

<sup>Mead had left c weeks before to contact M.</sup> Liberated by FFI in his help to get shot.

Body put down - buried, met Gigi & Rene Jean - latter took to James

Then 2 days with dentist M P/see Rene Francisque Richard  
Truck to M at Fragny - c 2 who there

Givi intentions in arms.

Dispers - that some - hit us - how please let Back had

To James - Robertson - on Rue Nat 7 - near St Symphonien <sup>new</sup>

c 2 who there - Rene RO work - then - took me to M Bernot

who lives in St Polques - c 2 who there

Things prep - FFI decide liberate

Another Ro - then Charles / Rogier Christom 126 Rue des  
monts clairs Colombes (Seine)

Mead & Duder come - put in hotel at Roanne.

Then c 9 days.

Col Haffner led relieved Mead (det).

W. going due to Clermont - Gigi - say wait

Then Major from OSS with P38p shot down N Paris.

Going St Etienne near AFL there

7 Sept

Major with in go - agree probably just as was staying - L. L.

1st Lyon liberated - Duder going - let us go although not  
approved - drive on.

Met 2 US int men. Wm French (Collingwood N),

Harold Barker (768 Park Ave NYC)

(Apparently picking up body types & Gestapo agents).

Next am left for 12 AF Hdq. - One Mead held on.

Salon-Courten - Casablanca

Col Hull - talked to at 12 AF



SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

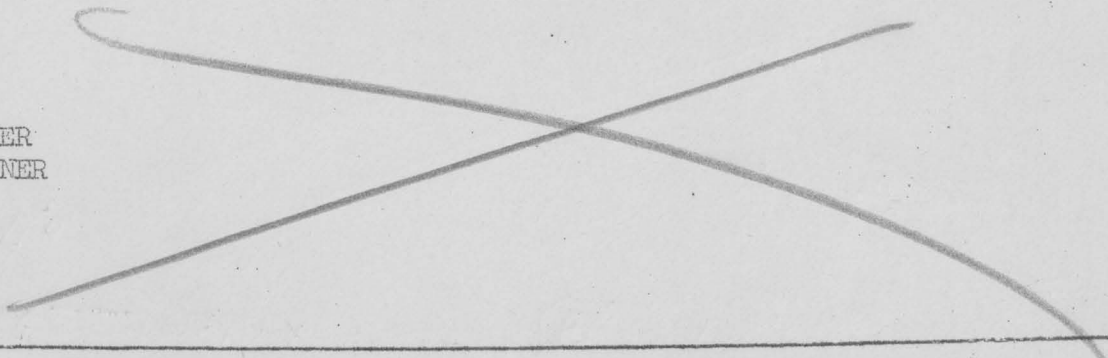
JOHN A. REITMEIER 1ST LT. O-800667  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
406 Bomb Sqd - 801 GP  
(Unit)

SEPT 11, 1944.  
(Date)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT  
CO-PILOT  
NAVIGATOR  
BOMBARDIER  
RADIO OPERATOR  
TOP TURRET GUNNER  
BALL TURRET GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
TAIL GUNNER



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

0040 MAY 5, 1944. MABLY (NORTH OF RHANNE)

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

MAIN GAS TANK RT. WING HIT BY 40MM. (WAIST COMP. & WINGS ON FIRE)  
RIGHT WING AUX HIT, NOSE WHEEL, BOMB LEVERS DESTROYED

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

2500'

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 BAILED OUT, BUT MY INJURY WAS DUE TO MY SHUTE  
NOT OPENING UNTIL AROUND 150 FT FROM THE GROUND.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

BEFORE (LEFT WING)

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

YES - MEAD, J.B. bombardier

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.

He received the same information as I.

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

YES COMPLETE WRECK WITH NO EQUIPMENT INTACT.

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?

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

JOHN A. REITMEIER 1ST LT 0-500667  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
25 (No. of missions)  
406 BOMB SQD 801 GP  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:  
Date mission in action: MAY 5, 44.  
Date arrived in UK: SEPT 11, 44.

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT SIMON, MURRY (LEFT FR. FOR SWITZ.)  
CO-PILOT RUSSELL, FRENCH (LEFT FR. FOR SWITZ.)  
NAVIGATOR REITMEIER, J.A. (Narrator)  
BOMBARDIER MEAD, J.B. (ATTACHED TO 12TH AIR FORCE BY REQUEST OF GEN. CABELL)  
RADIO OPERATOR LATTA, PHILLIP ?  
TOP TURRET GUNNER DIMINVI (BROKEN ANKLE (PRIS. OF WAR)  
ASST. ENGINEER COLLIER (WITH F.F.I.)  
BALL TURRET GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
TAIL GUNNER HASTY, GRAHAM (PRIS. OF WAR. WOUNDED)

*all information forwarded by British Intelligence*

Decorations: AIR MEDAL  
Date of Birth: JUNE 9, 1918.  
Private Address: 925 COLUMBIA AVE, PALMYRA NEW JERSEY  
Length of Service: 2 YEARS, 10 MONTHS  
Job as Civilian: CARPENTER (CONSTRUCTION)  
From what field did you take off? Take off time.  
HARRINGTON AROUND 2145  
Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?  
YES  
Were you wounded? Give details.  
YES FETURE IN SPINAL COLUMN (3 EXRAYS IN ROANNE HOSP. FRANCE)  
Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?  
NO  
Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?  
NINE  
Did you have identity papers? DOC, TRS  
YES GIVEN ME BY F.F.I.

(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?

*BROOKS ST. LONDON — SEPT 11, 1944.*

Date of arrival in Spain: *ITALY CASERTA SEPT 8, 1944.*

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

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

*AIR SEPT 10, 44. FROM CASA BLANCA*

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.

*NONE*

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- JOHN A REITMEIER 1ST LT 0-800667

Unit:- 406 SQD - 801 GP

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. YES

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. YES

Milk (tube). YES

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). NO

Halazone tablets (water purifier). YES

Matches. YES

Adhesive tape. NO

Chewing gum. YES

Water bottle. YES

Compass. YES

Sewing kit. NO

I hid in the woods for 1 1/2 days when I used all the food, the salve for scratches & hods, built a fire, purified water etc.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? NO

e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

BURNED IT

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?

NO

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? YES RED STRIPE  
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? MONEY

Maps. Which ones? SOUTHERN FRANCE

Compass, YES

File (hacksaw). NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

2000 FR. FRANCS spent for food

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. BURNED

Compass. LOST

File (hacksaw). LOST

Surplus currency. GAVE ALL AWAY

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? 8?

b. Did you use them? yes

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

yes around May '44. by Group Intell. officer

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?

NO

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*

1999  
**R E S T R I C T E D**

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
APO 650

300.4

9 Sept 1944

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : All Concerned.

The fol named O WP o/a 9 Sept 1944 by mil acft to proper station in UK as indicated below via Hq USSTAF. (Cable: USSTAF 67180).

1st Lt JOHN A. REITMEIER 0800667 801 Bomb Gp (Prov)

By command of Lieutenant General EAKER:

*Roy G Lange*  
ROY A. LANGE,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Actg Asst Adj Gen.

DISTRIBUTION:

3 - O con  
1 - Unit con  
1 - Hq USSTAF  
1 - Orders Clk

**R E S T R I C T E D**

1999

1st Lt John A REITMEIER, 0800667, 406/801 Bomb Gp, MIA 5 May 1944  
Itvd 11 Sept 44

On 5 May 1944 REITMEIER landed N of CHENAY le CHATEL (N of ROANNE). He had bailed out at about 2500 and his chute did not open until he was about 150' from the ground. He hit on his feet, was thrown on his chest and dazed. He seemed to have cracked a vertebra. He walked S ~~to~~ <sup>until</sup> daylight, slept in the woods, and was too sick to continue that night so he stayed where he was until 1600 the next day. He then walked toward CHENAY le CHATEL and while he was circling the town he met three ~~young~~ French boys whosoon discovered that he was an American aviator and took him to a house. There he ate, slept a bit, and then bicycled to MARCIGNY with one man. He stayed at a farm than night and the next. The next day he went to LODDES with ANTOINE BUFFET, at whose home he stayed for the next 35 days. He met a great many young people preparing to leave LaPALMESSE to get arms. A boy scput from LYON took casualty information.

ANTOINE took him to ROANNE by train. On the way they met Mlle PICARD. They met GEGI, a British Intelligence Agent, a Major, and DUDU, a captain who was working with him. He also met the RO, REINE. He went to M BOSSONADE, 153 Rue de Paris, ROANNE and stayed 30 days. Lt John MEAD (B of crew) was there when he arrived. They met BOBO, the head of French intelligence for the section, who sent information to Algiers. REITMEIER had three x-rays of hjs back taken preparatory to an operation (which seems not to have taken place).

BOSSONADE was taken by the Gestapo and sent to St ETIENNE where he was later liberated by the FFI just an hour before the Germans were going to shoot him.

MEAD left to go on the Maquis. When REITMEIER left the house after the capture of his host he had the fortune to run into GUGI and PIERRE of the house. The latter took him to his fiancee's. He then stayed two days with a dentist, M PLACE, Rue Francisque Rochard. He went by truck to a Maquis at FRAGNY and stayed there about two weeks giving instructions in arms. The group dispersed on a false alarm. REITMEIER's back was bad and he was sent to a farmhouse belonging to

ROBERTSON (questionable spelling) on Rue Nationale 7, NW of St SYMPHORIEN. He stayed there two weeks and saw a great deal of the RO REINE. REINE took him to M BENOIT who lived at St POLQUES and he stayed about two weeks there. Another RO was there CHARLES/REGIN CHRISTIAN, 126 Rue des Monts Clairs, Colombes (Seine).

The FFI decided to liberate the place. MEAD and DUDU came and for nine days he stayed in a hotel at ROANNE. It seemed that Col Hefflin had relieved MEAD of duty with the Maquis. They were going to start toward Cherborug, but GIGI advised waiting. They met an OSS major with a P-38 P who had been shot down N of Paris. He was going to St ETIENNE to reach the FFI. They major wanted them to accompany him but decided that it was probably just as wise for them to stay where they were.

When they heard that LYON was liberated they started over, driving, in spite of DUDU's disapproval. On the way they ran into two US intelligence men, so described, who were supposed to be picking up booby traps and Gestapo agents: W W French, Collingwood, NJ, and Harold Barker, 765 Parke Ave, NYC. The next day they left for Twelfth Air Force Hq where they talked to Col HULL. MEAD was held over by some general who wanted to send him back to France. Reitmeier returned by way of SALON, CASERTA, and CASABLANCA.

DEE

The persistence may deserve a Bronze Star.