

2nd Lt. John T. Chandler

We were hit by flak over Sweinfurt on Oct. 14, 1943. Our plane caught fire and I bailed out at 10,000 ft landing in the area of Toul (M. & M.) My toes and arch were broken and for 8 days I crawled and hobbled about without aid. On the 8th day I declared myself at a farmhouse where I was given food and a bed. I left at 3 A.M. the following morning and 2 days later declared myself again at a house in a village. I was clothed, fed and contact was made with the Res. The next night 3 Res. men came for me. They were Pierre Mathy, Mathy's Restaurant, XXXXX (XXXXXXXXXX), Basil, and Fernand, a Restaurant owner, all of Toul (M & M) They made out an identity card for me and took me by truck to Toul where I stayed at Pierre's house. At Toul I saw the graves of 4 of my crew. On the 28 Oct. I left with Mme. Krieg, an American agent who lived in Toul, for Belfort by train. From Belfort we were take in a buggy to a farmhouse where Mme. Krieg left me. A girl escorted me on cycle to another farmhouse in the mountains. From there the girl's brother, a guide, took me and an Italian officer across the frontier to a farm where I met Sgt. Festa. This farm was about 5 minutes walk from the frontier. Police called at the farmhouse and took us to the Hospital at Porrentruy. I was evacuated from Switzerland on the 13 Sept. 1944.

R. Sarant  
2nd Lt. AUS

2205

John T. Chandler 2nd LT. O-680405 331st Sq 94th Gr.  
Name Rank & Serial No. Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: OCT. 14, 1943 Near The border of France  
Date & Approximate location.  
IN ALSACE LOTARINE

Experiences after being shot down: wounded slightly on hip, broke  
Toes on landing in parachute, 6 days no water 7 days  
no food. Made contact on 10th day entered Switzerland  
on 14th day

Status: Escapee - ~~Evader~~ - Internee.

Date of Escape: OCT. 28, 1943

Date of Arrival at MAAF: <sup>ANNECY</sup> Sept. 13, 1944

Physical Condition: BAD CONDITION when I entered but  
good condition now.

REMARKS: Treated like INTERNEE

Home Address: 8930 KAUFFMAN STREET South Gate CA, FORM

Departed MAAF Hq.:

Lt. Chandler

No1 Dog Tags  
3 Photos

Hit by flak over Schweinfurt on Oct. 14, 1943. We lost the formation and headed for France. At 18,000 ft we caught fire, fighters came in to finish us off. We began bailing out. I told Sgt. Louis Buonarobo, ball turret gunner to get out. He refused saying th t he would stay put and swing his empty guns to keep fighter off. He was hit by 20 mm which killed him. Most of crew bailed out at 15,000. We two pilots bailed out at 10,000. All but 3 dead got out of plane. My chute opened just before I hit ground. Lt. Dodge's chute did not open and he bounced next to me. Fighters dove at us so I took to the woods. My toes and arch were broken so I had to crawl. For 8 days I crawled and hobbled about, (all the time near the Alsace-Lorraine border). On the 6th day, after being almost without water, it rained and I got water from moss. On the 7th day I stole food from a garden. On the 8th day I approached a French house. I was fed and rested and left in the morning at 3. 2 days later I reached a house in a village where I declared myself. I was clothed and fed and contact was made with the Res. The next night 3 Res men came for me. They were Pierre, Basil and Fernand all of Toul (M. and M.). They made out an identity card for me and took me by truck to Toul where I stayed at Pierres house. Pierre Mathy (Mathy's Restaurant) Toul. Fernand, mentioned above, also owned a Restaurant. 4 of my crew had been burried at Toul and I saw their graves. On the 28 Oct. I left with Mme. Krieg, an American agent who lived in Toul. We went by train through Nancy to Belfort. There we got a horse and buggy to a farmhouse where she left me. A girl escorted me by cycle to another farm in the mountains. Then the girl's brother, a guide, took me and an Italian Officer across the frontier to a farm where I met Sgt. Festa. This farm was about 5 minutes from the frontier. We had declared ourselves to the Police at the farmhouse and they took us to Porrentuy. Here I met Sgt. McLendon in the Hospital. I stayed in a Hotel in this town until the 1 Nov. when I left for Berne. I stayed at the Gurtin Kolhm Hotel for 21 days. My second day there I saw the M. A. The men left here for Klosters but I stayed to have my feet treated until Jan 28 when I left for Kloster also. I left Klosters Max in May for Montreux where I stayed until I was evacuated on the 13 Sept. to Annecy where we were in charge of Col. Hull.

I was Provost Marshal in charge of M.Ps. during my stay at Montreux.

X Capt. Katzanoff who works for the M. A. told me of the fate of Mme. Krieg and a woman companion. About 2 months ago they were crossing the frontier (this they did often). They were shot to death by a German machine gun. X



No dog tags.

2 Photos.

~~Switzerland.~~

Hit by flak on target. Lost formation, headed for France. At 18,000 on fire, fighter came in.

X Sgt. Louis Buonarobo. I told him to get out of Ball turret & bail out. He refused & said he would stay put & swing empty guns to keep fighters away so I mm killed him & Baled out at 18000 in two pilots at 10,000. All but 3 dead got out.

Chute opened just before hit ground. Lt Lodge's chute did not open & he bounced out to me. Fighter dove at us so I <sup>I don't know where I was</sup> ran into woods. Trees broken & arch broken so I had to crawl. I crawled for 3 days & nights. On 6<sup>th</sup> day got water & food.

I was running; on 7<sup>th</sup> day stole food from garden on 8<sup>th</sup> day sneaked at a French house. I was

fed & rested & left in morning took off. came to 2 day later before ~~arriving~~ <sup>3 PM</sup> declared myself - checked pt, Contact with French Org. Next night French Org. <sup>came</sup> made out paper & took in lunch to total in Nancy.

(His name was Pierre Mathy & I stayed in his house at <sup>Maichy, Reims</sup> ~~Maichy~~ <sup>Reims</sup>) 4 of my boys buried I saw their graves. On Oct 28 left with <sup>she made</sup> ~~Wm~~ <sup>Amey</sup> ~~Amey~~ <sup>agent</sup> ~~Amey~~ <sup>lived in</sup> to go to Lutz. Then Nancy by train to Belfort.

Wm & buggy to Farmhouse where left her. Ayded with girl to another farm in mountains. Then girl's brother a guide took me & station officer into Swiss Porrentoy. All same night. 5 men after

crossing front of farm. I met Sgt. Fester  
Also met Sgt. McLehman in Hosp. at  
Porrentry. ~~He then went~~. He had declared  
ourselves to police at Fainhouse & they took  
us to Porrentry. Stayed here <sup>in Hotel</sup> till 11 AM for  
Benny, stayed at Hotel, saw M.A. 3 days later.  
Stayed at Burton Kolm for 21 days,  
M.A. went to Kloster & stayed for treatment.  
1st pt. let J. on 28. & then went to Kloster.  
Left Kloster May Montreux where  
stayed until evacuated on 13 Sept.  
went to Annecy & in charge of Col. Hull

I was in chg of M.P.s of Montreux (Provas Marshall  
Capt. Katzanoff told me (works in M.A.  
Mme Krieg. about 2 mo ago she crossing frontier  
when shot to death by German machine gun. She &  
woman companion

1 Pierre

4 Hips

3 or 5 Basil

6 Singo

2 Fernand



# 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.

### 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) John T. Chandler  
Rank 2nd Lt A. S. N. 0-680405  
Unit 331st 99th 94th Bomb Gr

Signed John T. Chandler  
Dated Sept 20, 1944  
Witness 1st Lt. A. S. N.

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

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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 T. Chandler 2nd LT. 0-681415  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 10-14-43

1 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: 9-11-44

331st (Squadron) 94th (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT S.M. Dodge 2nd LT. Dead. Parachute didn't open. I saw him hit. Saw grave in France.  
CO-PILOT John T. Chandler 2nd LT.

NAVIGATOR F.J. Francis 2nd LT. Dead. Parachute didn't open. Seen to hit by LT. J.K.D. Becker.  
BOMBARDIER J.K.D. Becker 2nd LT. Escaped to Switzerland. Met him.

RADIO OPERATOR D. McClelland S/Sgt. " " " " " "

TOP TURRET GUNNER J.V. Foster S/Sgt. " " " " " "

BALL TURRET GUNNER L.J. Buonarobio Sgt. Died in ship. Saw grave in France.

WAIST GUNNER R.L. Thomas Sgt. Prisoner. Found out in Switzerland

WAIST GUNNER W.G. Butterfield. Died in ship. Saw grave in France

TAIL GUNNER J. Monval Sgt. Died in ship. Saw grave in France

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: August 26, 1918

Private Address: 8950 KUFFMAN Street. South Gate, California.

Length of Service: 2 years 6 months

Job as Civilian: FITSMAN

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Bury St Edmunds. 10 o'clock AM.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes.

Were you wounded? Give details. Slightly scratched in hip. Broken toes (by fire of 20mm element)

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? PAID ALL ESCAPE MONEY 2000 F.

Do you speak FRENCH? A little SPANISH? Yes GERMAN? Yes ITALIAN? A little OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? NO. Just photographs

(over)



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

YES. IN BERN SWITZERLAND BY MILITARY ATTACHE.

YES IN ANNEXY FRANCE BY S.S.

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

YES IN BERN SWITZERLAND. MILITARY ATTACHE

YES IN ANNEXY FRANCE BY S.S.

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

BERN SWITZERLAND.

ANNEXY FRANCE.

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

IN BERN SWITZERLAND. IN NOV. 1943.

Date of arrival in Spain: SWITZERLAND OCT. 28 1943

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: FRANCE SEPT. 13. 1944 -

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

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

Sgt. R.L. THOMAS.

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

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

John T. Chandler 2nd LT 0-680405

Sept. 19, 1944

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

(Date)

331st Sq. 94th Group

(Unit)

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. OCT. 14, 1943  
APP. 1700. NEAR ALSACE-LOTHARING BORDER.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
CONTROLS SHOT AWAY. SHIP ON FIRE. BOTH WINGS

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? APP. 10,000 FT.

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

1. SGT. BUONARROBO. 2. SGT. MCNULT. 3. SGT. BUTTERFIELD

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

PILOT - chute UNOPENED BOMB. YES T.J. YES WAIST (THOMAS) YES  
CO-PILOT - YES. NAVIG. - UNKNOWN RAD. YES.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

3 POINT KNOWN

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

YES. SAID PILOT DEAD

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 informant was identified by name or otherwise.

INFORMANT TOLD ME RADIO OP. PRECEDED ME. SHOWED ME REMAINS OF DODGE, BUONARROBO, BUTTERFIELD, MCNULT.

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. NOT ON WATER

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

SAID PRISONER LIST OF SGT. THOMAS. SAID REMAINS OF DODGE, BUTTERFIELD, MCNULT, BUONARROBO. M.A.T. BECKER, FOSTER, MCCLENDON IN SWITZERLAND. BECKER SAW FLYING HIT WITH UNOPENED CHUTE.



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.,.....)

*All Territory seen by me while Escaping  
is now in Allied hands.*



TOP SECRET

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

APPENDIX C, TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land? *Jumped*
2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed? *Don't Know. Went through NANCY Verdun, Toul.*
3. How long was it before you got help? *10 days*
4. List the people who helped you and the location (city, town, or village) in which you were with them, including addresses where possible. After the name or description of each person with whom you stayed give the approximate dates between which you were with him.

*'Toul' FRANCE*

*Pierre MATHY (Toul)*

*OCT 24-28-1943*

*} Other NAMES I do NOT  
KNOW.*

5. List other American and British evaders whom you saw during your evasion and state where you saw them.

*I SAW NONE TILL I REACHED SWITZERLAND*

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *John T. Chandler 2ND LT. O-680005*

Unit:- *3314 Spd 94th Group.*

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. *no good. Did NOT eat. Unpalatable.*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *had none.*

Milk (tube). *had none.*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *used Them. Very good. Did NOT sleep for 2 days and nights.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *used Them when possible.*

Matches. *used. good.*

Adhesive tape. *good used.*

Chewing gum. *good. used.*

Water bottle. *good. good.*

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *yes. AT FIRST AND PUT ARTICLES IN POCKETS.*
- 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? *BETTER GOOD CHOCOLATE, A BIT OF TOBACCO. BETTER MAPS WITH MORE DETAIL.*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes.*  
State color of stripes and letters. *DONT KNOW. I PUT MONEY IN POCKET.*  
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? *All Except Lowest FRANCE.*

Compass, *YES.*

File (hacksaw). *YES.*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *YES. 2000 FRANCH FRANC*  
How did you spend the money? *GAVE MONEY TO ORGANIZATION*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *ORGANIZATION*

Compass. *"*

File (hacksaw). *"*

Surplus currency. *"*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *BATHING COMPASS*  
*COMPASSES.*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *YES*  
If so, how many? *3.*

b. Did you use them? *YES.*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *FROM PRELIMINARY TRAINING*  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *IN STAFF TO COMBAT UNITS BY PREVIOUS ESCAPEES AND*  
*32*

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 escapees?

*BE SURE TO HAVE ESCAPE KIT AND A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES YOU FLY OVER.*