

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?
VERDUN, FRANCE
3. How long was it before you got help? *3 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.

*ANDRE JOSEPH AUDRIOT FLIREY, FRANCE
(FARMER) FROM OCT. 17th to OCT 22nd.*

*MME. MANY FRANCOIS NANCY, FRANCE
(MID-WIFE) FROM OCT 22nd to 24th*

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

*2ND. LT. ARTHUR G. FOSTER (AMERICAN)
MET HIM IN CITY OF NANCY, FRANCE AND
ESCAPED WITH HIM TO SWITZERLAND.*

S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

BECKER, JAMES M. D. 2ND LT 0-671260
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

SEPTEMBER 19, 1944
(Date)

94th Bomb Grp. 831st Bomb Squadron
(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.

OCTOBER 14, 1943 - 16:45 - crashed near Verdun, France

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

#3 & #4 engines knocked out by flak - both wings on fire SEVERELY damaged by enemy fighters.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 15,000 ft.

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

ALL WOUNDED - 3 KILLED IN SHIP BEFORE CRASH.

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

PILOT, CO-PILOT, BOMBARDIER, NAVIGATOR, ENGINEER, RADIO OPERATOR, 1 WAIST GUNNER. (7 men)

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

DID NOT SEE PLANE - French reported only burned.

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

Saw Navigator fall past me during parachute descent.

His chute failed to open and he landed about 300 yds away.

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

After arrival in Switzerland, I saw a photo taken by some French who recovered 4 bodies and gave them a decent burial.

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?

Pilot & navigator killed when chutes failed to open
1 Waist gunner, ball turret gunner, & tail gunner killed before ship crashed.

1 Waist gunner - German P.O.W. - source Red Cross & American Legation in Bern, Switzerland
Bombardier - Co pilot, Engineer, & Radio operator escaped to Switzerland.

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: SCHWEINFURT,
GERMANY

Date mission in action: OCTOBER 14, 1948

Date arrived in UK: _____

SEPTEMBER 19, 1944

BECKER, JAMES K. D. 2NDLT 0-671260

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

1 (No. of missions)

331 ST 94 TH

(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what
happened to each man
and how you know.

PILOT SHERMAN M. DODGE, 2NDLT. KILLED WHEN CHUTE FAILED TO
OPEN - confirmed by Co. pilot.

CO-PILOT JOHN T. CHANDLER, 2NDLT. ESCAPED - to Switzerland -
met him later.

NAVIGATOR FRANK J. FRANCIS, 2NDLT. KILLED when chute failed to
open - confirmed by Bombardier

BOMBARDIER JAMES K. D. BECKER, 2NDLT. ESCAPED with me.

RADIO OPERATOR DOUGLAS MCCLENDON, S/SGT. ESCAPED - to Switzerland -
met him later.

TOP TURRET GUNNER JAMES V. FESTIA, S/SGT. ESCAPED - to Switzerland
met him later.

BALL TURRET GUNNER LOUIS J. BUONARROBO, SGT. Killed - confirmed by other
escapes & French photograph

WAIST GUNNER ROBERT M. THOMAS, SGT. P.O.W. in Germany - Red Cross &
American Legation in Swiss

WAIST GUNNER WARREN C. BUTTERFIELD, SGT. Killed confirmed by other
escapes & French photo

TAIL GUNNER JAMES MENALL, SGT. Killed " " "

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: MARCH 14, 1921

Private Address: 215 EAST LINDEN STREET
KENNETH SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA (U.S.A.)

Length of Service: 2 1/2 YEARS

Job as Civilian: CLERK

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

BURY ST. EDMONDS - 10:00

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. YES BY FLAK FRAGMENTIS
in hands, arms, & face, - also gashed forehead when
bailing out

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No - refused money.

Do you speak FRENCH? Yes SPANISH? No GERMAN? Yes ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? NONE

Did you have identity papers? NONE

(over)

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

*YES - AT OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHE - American Legation
Bern, Switzerland - by Officials in M.A.'S OFFICE*

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

YES - SAME AS ABOVE

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

YES - SAME AS ABOVE

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

YES - SAME AS ABOVE

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

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

ANNECY, FRANCE SEPT. 19, 1944 by AIR

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

SGT. ROBERT M. THOMAS.

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

✓

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.,.....)

~~During the~~ town of Belle, France & was shown bombed motor works. These bomb results were shown to me by a member of the British Intelligence Service whose duty it was to plot the bomb impacts for the Royal Air Force. This particular target was bombed by the R.A.F. and only 5% of the bombs actually hit the target (motor works) whereas extensive damage was caused to homes and other bldgs in the village. When the R.A.F. received the report that only 5% of the bombs actually fell on the target, they informed their Intelligence officer that that was impossible at the time I saw the plant, the bomb damage to the factory was repaired and it was again in operation.

The residents of the town did not bother to repair their damaged homes for they feared another raid would be made on the plant.

2206

2d Lt James K D BECKER
O-671260
331 Sqdn, 94 B Gp

20 Sept 44

On 14 October 1943, I bailed out and landed near VERDUN. I ran into a nearby woods and hid while German fighters circled overhead and searchers approached. Late that night, I started walking southeast. I walked only at night and on ~~12-25-43~~ ¹²⁻²⁵⁻⁴³, I met a farmer who took me to his home at FLIREY (30 kilos NW of NANCY).

I stayed five days with ANDRÉ JOSEPH AUDRIOT at FLIREY (Meurthe et Moselle). There were he, his wife, and a boy GEORGES who worked on the farm. André, a former prisoner of the Germans, went into NANCY to contact the underground, but had no luck.

He brought the local priest and the schoolteacher to see me. I was told there would be a plane sent to evacuate me. The schoolteacher gave me civilian clothes and on 22 October, I was taken in a car to NANCY.

We were stopped by the Gestapo but the ~~two~~ ^{two} Frenchmen told them I was deaf and dumb. I had no papers, ~~however, so~~ ^{but} I was taken to the police station. ~~I~~ I stayed overnight with the interpreter. The next day a policeman took me to the house of Mme MANY FRANCOIS, a midwife of about 35 years of age. This seemed to be the headquarters of the underground movement.

The first night I was there, Lt Arthur G FOSTER (E & E No. 2207) was brought in. We both stayed there until 24 October when we were told the intended trip to the Spanish border would be impossible.

A French guide named PHILLIP took us on the train to BELFORT. We had to walk from there to MONTBELIARD as the underground had blown up the track. On the way we met two young Belgians who were also trying to escape from France.

We ^{all} went on to DELLE and remained overnight. Then we took a truck almost to the frontier. The five of us went across the border at noon. We did not see any guards, and our guide called the police at ~~PORENTURY~~ ^{PORENTURY} to come pick us up at DAMANT. They came for us and took us to the hotel in PORENTURY for the night. The next day we were taken to BERN and interrogated. We spent the night in the jail there and the next day were taken to the office of the American Military Attache.

I worked in the press section of the legation at BERN from then until 13 Sept 1944 when we left for France. I was flown from ANNECY to the UK on 19 Sept 44.

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SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-671260 2ND LT. JAMES H.D. BECKER
Unit:- 94th Bomb Group 331st Bomb Squadron

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 - PROVED VERY VALUABLE.*
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. *ATE SPARINGLY. (PAPER WAS HARD TO REMOVE) WHILE HIDING.*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *ATE IT SPARINGLY FOR 3 DAYS.*

Milk (tube). *NOT USED - THOUGHT IT WAS A SALVE FOR BURNS.*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *NOT USED.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *NOT USED - COULD FIND NO WATER*

Matches. *NOT USED*

Adhesive tape. *MADE BANDAGES WITH A CLEAN POCKET HANDKERCHIEF AND USED TAPE TO HOLD THEM.*

Chewing gum. *CHEWED SPARINGLY AT INTERVALS.*

Water bottle. *USED SEVERAL TIMES FOR 3 DAYS*

Compass. *USED ALL OF THE TIME WHILE ESCAPING*

Sewing kit. *USED TO REPAIR TORN COVERALLS*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *MILK TABLETS BECAUSE PAPER WAS DIFFICULT TO REMOVE*
e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *BURIED 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? *MORE DETAILED MAPS.*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *RED.*
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? *FRANCE*

Compass, *ALL compasses*

File (hacksaw). *not used*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *1900 Francs (French)*

How did you spend the money? *Used in France. Purchased railroad ticket.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *Gave to French people as souvenirs.*

Compass. *" " " " " "*

File (hacksaw). *Destroyed in Switzerland.*

Surplus currency. *Used upon returning thru France in September, 1944.*

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

Carte d'Identite by French. Taken by Swiss.

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them? *yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Geiger Field - Spokane, Washington - former escapee
Boonington - England - former escapee

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

Extremely valuable.

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

yes -

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 *SEGRET*.
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 *SEGRET* 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) JAMES H. D. BECKER
Rank 2ND LT. A. S. N. 0-671260
Unit 94th Bomb Group
331st Bomb Squadron

Signed James H. D. Becker
Dated 22 September 1944
Witness William H. Allen, Capt. MC

AG P BR HQ SOS

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331ST BOMB SQUADRON
94TH BOMB GROUP

BECKER, JAMES K. D. - 2ND LT - 0671260

8TH AIR FORCE

Name

Rank & Serial No.

Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: OCTOBER 14, 1943 - NEAR VERDUN, FRANCE
Date & Approximate location.

Experiences after being shot down: HID OUT AND TRAVELED AT
NIGHT FOR 3 DAYS - CONTACTED HELP IN VILLAGES
OF FLIREY - PROCEEDED AFTER 5 DAY STAY TO
NANCY - LEFT AFTER 2 DAY STAY FOR SWITZER-
LAND AND CROSSED FRONTIER ON OCT. 25, 1943

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

Date of Escape: OCTOBER 25, 1943

Date of Arrival at ^{ANNEX} MAAF: SEPTEMBER 13, 1944

Physical Condition: GOOD

REMARKS: WORKED FOR AMERICAN LOCATION IN
BERNE, SWITZERLAND DURING ENTIRE
STAY THERE - TREATED WELL IN
SWITZERLAND - NO COMPLAINTS

Home Address: 215 EAST LINDEN STREET
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

Departed MAAF Hq.: _____