

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 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) FESTA, JAMES V.  
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 32498839  
Unit 94th GP 331st Sqr

Signed James V. Festa  
Dated Sept 19, 1944  
Witness 2nd Lt. J. A. ULIO

AG P BR HQ SOS

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# RESTRICTED

S/Sgt. James V. Fester

No. day tags  
I don't have card

Our mission on the 14 Oct 43 was Sweeney  
Our plane was on fire, ammunition gone, and  
scores of fighters on our tail when bail out order  
was given. I fell out at 15,000 ft landing in a  
tree in a forest E of Nancy (M.I.M.) I cut my self down,  
took off my M Th. & ran further into wood. I had  
lost my electric shoes coming down, so could not walk  
far. I hid the 1st night in a haystack near a farm.  
~~where~~ I declared myself to the farmer in the morning (Oct 15)  
He gave me boots, food and direction & I made  
my way thru the woods until in the afternoon I  
met 2 women who gave me food took me to  
their house & gave me food & clothing. The next 2 days  
I walked S Th. getting food from helpers on the way.  
My feet, pinched by small boots made it impossible to  
continue. On the outskirts of Vaid (Mous) I  
stopped in a woods & took off my shoes. 2 French gendarmes  
of Vaid picked me up & took me to P. Station where they  
hid me. That night they took me by cycle to a canal boat  
about 3 miles away, in which lived M. Vincent, his  
wife & 3 children. I stayed here 1 week during which the  
Gendarmes made arrangements for my removal. A boy  
in the Res. took me by train to Verdun where I stayed at  
the home of a man & wife, both Res. <sup>(the French)</sup> It was here that I  
met Sgt. Hugh Mauritho, Lt Conner & Sgt. Yeryas  
The latter 2 left 2 days after my arrival, I and Sgt.  
Mauritho left on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. The French took us by train  
to Belfort. We were taken to a cafe where we were taken

We were given cards here

by truck to a farmhouse in the country. <sup>Oct 28</sup> that night  
we were led across the frontier escorted by 4 Res. men.  
to a Swiss farm at Sella where we met Lt Chandler.  
The ~~we~~ were <sup>we</sup> ~~proped~~ <sup>proped</sup> on what to say to Swiss. The Police  
were notified, and that same night they packed us up  
and took us to a guardhouse where they questioned us.  
they then took us by taxi to Porrentruy where  
we stayed 3 days at the Swiss Hotel. We were then taken  
by <sup>mt</sup> Police to Berne where we were interrogated by a  
Swiss Officer & then taken to a rooming house.  
The next day I was taken to the Victoria Hospital  
in Berne where I met S/Sgt Mc Clendon. I stayed  
here a week & then went to the Legation, where I was  
outfitted and sent to the Gurtin Johnson Hotel.  
5 weeks later I went to Fribourg. In April I went  
to the Hotel des Alpes at Olion where I remained  
until I was evacuated to a ~~maney~~ <sup>maney</sup> on 13 Sept.

about Sgt Mauritho. He became loud under drink.  
He had been cautioned before the incident which  
resulted in his confinement. He had threatened an  
employee of the British Legation.

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S/Sgt. James V. Festa

Returning from the Sweinfurt raid on the 14 Oct. 1943 we were hit by flak and shell. I fell out at 15,000 feet, landing E of Nancy( M & M). I hid the first night and the next morning declared myself at a farm where I was given boots, food and directions. I continued on my way and in the afternoon met 2 women who took me to their house and gave me food and clothing. I walked most of that and the following day, and on the outskirts of Void(Meuse) I met 2 French Gendarmes of Void who hid me in the local Gendarmerie until nightfall when they took me by cycle to a canal boat about 3 miles away in which lived M Vincent, his wife and 3 children. I stayed here 1 week during which time the Gendarmes made arrangements for my removal. A young man in the Resistance took me by train to Verdun(Meuse) where I stayed with the Duchesse and her husband, members of the Resistance. Here I met Sgt. Mauritho, Lt. Conner and Sgt. Yeryar. We were all given identity cards here. The latter 2 left 2 days after my arrival. Sgt. Mauritho and I left on the 4th day. The Duchesse took us by train to Belfort. We stopped at a Cafe where a truck transported us to a framhouse in the country. That night, Oct. 28, 1943, we were taken across the frontier by 4 Resistance men to a Swiss farm near Delle where we met Lt. Chandler. We were briefed on what to say to the Swiss and were then turned over to the Swiss Police.

R. Sarant  
2nd Lt. AUS

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *5/SGT. JAMES V. FESTA*

Unit:- *94TH GP 331ST SQD*

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. *HAD LITTLE FOOD FOR FIRST 4*
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *DAYS PLIVED ON CHOCOLATE*
- Milk (tube). *- DID NOT USE IT.*
- Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *DID NOT USE IT.*
- Halazone tablets (water purifier).
- Matches. *- TO READ MAP & COMPASS AT NIGHT.*
- Adhesive tape. *- USED IT FOR CUTS*
- Chewing gum. *- CAME IN HANDY WHILE WALKING.*
- Water bottle. *- DID NOT USE*
- Compass. *- VERY HANDY - WAS CLOSE TO GERMAN BORDER? IT-KEPT ME FROM WALKING INTO IT.*
- Sewing kit. *- DID NOT USE*
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *YES*
- 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?
- MAPS MORE IN DETAIL - A SMALL FLASHLIGHT*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *YES*  
State color of stripes and letters. *DONT REMEMBER*  
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *YES. MAPS & MONEY*

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass,

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

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?



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.,.....)

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

FESTAJAMESV. S/SGT. 32498839  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

SEPT. 19, 1944  
(Date)

94TH GP. 331ST SQD.  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

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

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

LEFT SHIP ABOUT 16 45

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

CONTROLS SHOT OUT. NO OXYGEN. BOTH WINGS ON FIRE.  
MOST OF GUNS SHOT OUT. NO AMMUNITION

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

15000 FEET.

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

YES - 3 OF THEM WERE KILLED

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? PILOT & NAVIGATORS  
CHUTE DID NOT OPEN

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

DID NOT SEE PLANE

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

NO

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 source was identified by name or otherwise.

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

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

TARGET: SCHWEINFURT

FESTA JAMES V. 1/SGT. 32498839  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 10-14-43

1 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: 9-19-44

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 2ND LT. SHERMAN M. DODGE - DEAD - CHUTE FAILED TO OPEN - SEEN BY CO-PILOT  
CO-PILOT 2ND LT. JOHN T. CHANDLER - MET IN SWITZERLAND  
NAVIGATOR 2ND LT. FRANK J. FRANCIS - DEAD - CHUTE FAILED TO OPEN - SEEN BY BOMBARDIER  
BOMBARDIER 2ND LT. J. K. D. BECKER  
RADIO OPERATOR 1/SGT. DOUGLAS MCLENDON - MET IN SWITZERLAND  
TOP TURRET GUNNER 1/SGT. JAMES V. FESTA  
BALL TURRET GUNNER SGT. L. J. BUONARBO - DEAD - DIED IN SHIP  
WAIST GUNNER SGT. ROBERT M. THOMAS - PRISONER OF WAR  
WAIST GUNNER SGT. WARREN G. BUTTERFIELD - DEAD - DIED IN SHIP  
TAIL GUNNER SGT. JAMES MENAUL - DEAD - DIED IN SHIP

Decorations:

Date of Birth: DECEMBER 14, 1920

Private Address: 1018-60<sup>TH</sup> ST. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Length of Service: 2 YEARS

Job as Civilian: LAUNDRY WORK

From what field did you take off? Take off time. BURY ST. EDMONDS - 1000

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES.

Were you wounded? Give details. FLAK WOUNDS - RIGHT HAND CUT FROM SCHROUD LINES - ON CHUTE

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? 1,000 FRENCH ~~FRANCS~~

Do you speak FRENCH? NO SPANISH? NO GERMAN? NO ITALIAN? NO OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? NO

(over)

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

OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHE IN BERN SWITZERLAND  
2 PT 52 IN ANNECY IN FRANCE

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

SAME AS ABOVE

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

SAME AS ABOVE

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

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *Annecey 18 Sept 44*

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.

TOP SECRET

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

APPENDIX C. TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land? *JUMP*
2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed? *EAST OF NANCY*
3. How long was it before you got help? *4 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.

*DO-NOT-REMEMBER NAMES OR TOWNS, WAS IN  
VERDUN FOR 4 DAYS BUT DO NOT REMEMBER  
PERSONS NAME.*

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

*LT. E.W. CONNOR  
SGT. H.E. YERYAR  
SGT. H. MAURITHO*

*MET THESE 3 IN VERDUN.  
CROSSED SWISS BORDER  
WITH SGT. MAURITHO ON  
OCT. 28, 1943*