

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

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

KIS/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)

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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) EARL J. SEAGARS Signed Earl J. Seagars
Rank 1st Lt. AC A.S.N. 0689095 Dated Sept 19, 1944 Place London
Unit 387 Bomb GP - 558 SP Witness

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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(WEA) PERSONNEL

19 Sept 1944

(Date)

SEAGARS, EARL J. 1ST LT. 0689095

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

N/E OF AMIENS

40

Date Missing in Action: AUG. 28, 1944

(Target)

(Number of missions)

Returned to UK: SEPT 19, 1944

387 B.G. 558 SQ.

(Unit)

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

PILOT 1ST LT. H. A. JORDAN - UNKNOWN

CO-PILOT - NARRATOR

NAVIGATOR NONE

BOMBARDIER 1ST LT. B. F. POWELL - UNKNOWN

RADIO OPERATOR 1ST LT. G. E. RIES - UNKNOWN

ENGINEER
TOP TURRET GUNNER SGT. H. E. MICHAEL - UNKNOWN

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIIST GUNNER

WAIIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER SGT. D. R. BALL - UNKNOWN

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. AUG. 28 - 1930 - NEAR FLEXWIT
N/W of AMIENS

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

RIGHT ENGINE + NOSE ON FIRE.

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

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

UNKNOWN

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

UNKNOWN

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?

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 other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

INFORMANT SAW SIX PARACHUTES. TWO TAKEN PRISONER.

(over)

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

NO. HEARD AIRCRAFT BURNING AND MINOR EXPLOSIONS.

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?

FROM INFORMANTS - BELIEVE ALL PARACHUTED SAFELY - TWO
TAKEN PRISONER.

Were you wounded? NO.

Were you in German hands? NO.

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? AT PARIS.

What souvenirs do you still possess? HANDKERCHIEF FROM PARACHUTE.
BELT BUCKLE (GERMAN)

✓ Home address. 217 SO. JUANITA AVE. REDONDO BEACH, CALIF.

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.

1st LT. EARL JOHN SEAGARS 0689095
387 Bomb GP- 558 SQDN AP 140

PILOT - 1st LT. H. A. JORDAN - UNKNOWN
CO-PILOT - NARRATOR
BOMBARDIER - TSGT B. G. POWELL - UNKNOWN
(ENGINEER) TOP GUNNER - SGT. HOWARD E. MICHAEL 39549959
KILLED IN CRASH.
RADIOMAN
TSGT G. E. RIES 33283528 KILLED IN CRASH
TAILGUNNER
S/SGT R. D. BALL KILLED IN CRASH.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM EVADERS -

LT. EDWIN H. BLAKELY 1st LT A.C.

LT. KENNETH A. BROWER 1st LT A.C. 0674129

THESE TWO LT'S SAW ^{THE THREE} DOG TAGS + ATTENDED FUNERAL

ANOTHER BODY FOUND IN WRECKAGE UNIDENTIFIED

~~BELIEVED~~ BELIEVED FIFTH MEMBER OF CREW A PRISONER OF WAR

FOUR BODIES BURIED AT BETTEN COURT, FRANCE (Somme)

~~LT EARL JOHN SEAGARS 0689095~~
~~387 Bomb GP- 558 SQDN AP 140~~

CONFIDENTIAL

2224

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-689095

Rank

1/Lt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

Earl J. Seagars

Unit

387 Bomb ~~Grp~~ Grp

has been fully/~~re-~~interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)

on

12 Sept

1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Robert Bacon
Major 2/Lt. Ac.

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & I DEF.-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.

34E#2224

E. & E. REPORT No. I.S. 9 (WEA) / 6/212/1693 ~~XXX~~ SECRET
I.S. 9 (WEA).

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURED/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) .. FRANCE

For all Personnel.

1. No. 0-689095 Rank 1st Lt. Name EARL JOHN SEAGARS
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) .. 40 missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details no
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) .. 558. Sqn.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 387. Bomb. Gp. 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) .. Pilot
7. Date of Birth 26. June. 1920 8. Length of Service .. 2 1/2 years
9. Peace time occupation. aircraft mechanic 10. Private address. 217. So. Juanita Ave
..... Redondo Beach, Calif.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dog Tags, photos
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 BALE OUT.

15. Post in Crew co-pilot
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. French told me that
PILOT. 1st Lt. JORDAN. unknown. 02.04.52.53. m.i.a. two were taken. PW.
CO-PILOT. narrator. Higgins
- NAVIGATOR none
- BOMBARDIER T/Sgt. B.F. Powell. unknown. 17.06.03.15. m.i.a.
- RADIO OPERATOR George E. REIS, T/Sgt - " 33.28.35.28. m.i.a.
- TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. H.E. Michael. " Howard E. 39.54.99.59. m.i.a.
- BALL TURRET ~~gunner~~ none
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) none
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) none
- TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. P.R. Ball. - unknown. 39.12.7.85. m.i.a.
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure. Marauder. - Cherbourg, France
..... August 28, 1944. - 1800
18. Where and when did you come down? .. Flixecourt. - NW of Amiens, France
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? .. Buried parachute
..... and harness in woods.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? .. yes. - plane crashed and
..... burned.

Interview by I.S. 9 (WEA)

Date. 12. Sept. 1944

Attached:

Appendix "B"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No. 5

Robert Bacon

ROBERT BACON
2nd Lt, AC

Major

Disposal: Returned to unit

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq. I.S. 9 (WEA) 2
12th Army Group 2 (less C)
9th AF 1

On Tuesday, August 29, 1944 while hidden in farm yard near Flixecourt, Somme River, heard and saw (5) five flying bombs between the hours of 1100 and 1600 clearly heard the launching (site) of said flying bombs.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/212/1693

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

No. 0689095 Rank. 1st Lt Name EARL JOHN SEAGARS

Date of Interview 12 Sept. 1944

HELP RECEIVED FROM :

Mme & Mr. Ayroulet
S.A.F.L.
Conde Folie
(Somme) France

M. Leroy - Richard -
Conde Folie (Somme) France