

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 6558428 Rank T/Sgt
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Conrad J. Kersch
Unit 303 B Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on 17 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Robert H. 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. & X DET.-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 Brook
Street, London.

Pilot - 0804700 - 2d Lt. Charles W. MARS P/W
Co-P. - 0691042 - 2d Lt. William J. DALLAS P/W
NAV. - 0809499 - 2d Lt. George L. ARVANITES P/W
Bom - Narrator

YTG - 32460947 - S/Sgt. Raymond L. FOSTER P/W
R.O. - 35648423 - S/Sgt - Eddie Mc Ginnis P/W
B.T.G. - 13125695 - S/Sgt - Charles W. DUNLAP, Jr. P/W
T.G. - 12128830 - S/Sgt - Vincent A. AMGIONE ^{MIA}
WG - 31242805 - S/Sgt - Albert J. SENECHAL P/W
WG - 37396868 - S/Sgt - Delbert S. NIVEN P/W

C O N F I D E N T I A L

2225

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EVASDED CAPTURE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE.....

1. No. 6558428..... Rank. T/Sgt..... Name. KERSCH, CONRAD J.....
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S) 55 missions with 19th B Gp. in Pacific

2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions). DFC & OLC; Air Medal. - 8 Mission in this theatre

3. Were you wounded? Give details. Minor Facial & Neck flak wounds. - ok.....

4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force). 427th Bomb Sqn. 8th AF.....

5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force).. 303 Bomb Gp. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc) Bombardier.

7. Date of Birth, Sept. 9, 1916..... 8. Length of Service. over 8 years....

9. Peace time occupation, Student..... 10. Private Address. Mr. Conrad J. Kersch
..... % Mrs. ELIZABETH BERNTSEN, Box 35, Fox River Grove, Ill., USA.

11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dog Tags. - French papers

12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? German.....

13. No. and location of O.T.U.

14. No. and location of Conversion Unit.

15. Post in Crew. **BOMBARDIER** One of the bombardiers was machined gunned & killed on way down in chute.

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. (obtained information from French people)

PILOT **Lt. Mars** (4 fingers cut off; facial burns) captured.....

CO-PILOT..... name unknown captured. *

NAVIGATOR..... " " (throat wounds, nose cut off) captured. *

BOMBARDIER. narrator - evade successfully

RADIO OPERATOR... name unknown captured

TOP TURRET GUNNER. " " (bad leg injury) captured *

PALL TURRET GUNNER. " " injuries unknown - captured

WAIST GUNNER (R.) " " " " " " dead or captured

WAIST GUNNER (L.) " " " " " "

TAIL GUNNER. " " " " captured *

*I saw 4 of these being put on train to Germany on 27 March

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.....
B-17F, near Northampton, England, March 26, 1944, 12:00

18. Where and when did you come down?..... Watten near St. Omer France at approx 1430

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?..... Parachute buried un
wood pile - harness & mae west buried in ground

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?..... yes ship burned & exploded.

Disposal: Returned to unit

DISTRIBUTION:

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

Date: March 26, 1944

Mission: Bombing

Target: Long Range Rocket Guns

Results: Target Destroyed - approx. 300 Germans dead.

Opposition: Mild Flak and very accurate.

Aircraft damage: 2 engines (inboards) knocked out by flak shrapnāl, No.4 Engine fired by flak burst during bombing run - dropped bombs on time and target before leaving formation. All men left ship.

Delayed jump 21,000 ft. ran into woods pursued by 12-13 Germans evaded them by running out of woods hiding in a hedge for 6 hours. People took me in for the night. Next day went to St. Omer train station and bought ticket for Lille. My captured crew showed up at station. To avoid recognition missed train on purpose. Returned to same house - Patriôt underground took charge of me that night (27-3-44) Advised by underground impossible to make spanish border. Later joined FFI, sabotage battled with German troops, etc. upon Liberation reported to British authorities and hence to proper authorities.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/247/1717

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

No. 6558428 Rank T/Sgt Name KERSCH, CONRAD J.

Date of Interview 17 Sept. 1944

(F.F.I. ~~xxx~~ Lt.) PIERRE GLORIAN
Pharmacien - Cassel (Nord) France
Photo & identification papers

(F.F.I. Lt.) STEPHEN GRADY - kept me 2 weeks transferred me out of
6 rue du sac danger of being capturef for sabotage.
Nieppe (Nord) France

(F.F.I. Lt.) Jean Sunneville
La Creche - Bailleul kept me 7 weeks
(Nord) France

Mr. Arthur Van Mullen - Lederzeele par Watten (Nord) France
Kept me for approx. 3 months.

Mr. Emile Depreter - Nieppe(Nord) France
kept me 1 week until Gestapo were off my trail.

Mr. Mouret - Rue de Bailleul, Nieppe(Nord) France
kept me 24 hours after I comitted sabotage
and was being hunted by the gestapo

(F.F.I. Capt) Mr. Marcel Houcke, rue Nationale, Nieppe (Nord) France
transferred me out of danger.

Did not carry an aids box.

Had an money purse but left it on the ship.

Briefed ~~xxxx~~ on escape and evasion in England, 20 March 1944.

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

3225
SEPT. 19, 1944
(Date)

KERSCH, CONRAD J. 1/SGT. 6558428
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

VISERNES, FRANCE 6
(Target) (Number of missions)

427TH SQDN - 303RD BOMB. (H) Gp.
(Unit)

Date Missing in Action: MAR. 26, 1944

Returned to UK: SEPT. 19, 1944

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

PILOT LT. MARS — FACIAL BURNS & 4 FINGERS CUT OFF — CAPTURED

CO-PILOT UNKNOWN — NO INJURIES — "

*-NAVIGATOR " — (NOSE CUT OFF & THROAT INJURIES) — "
FROM FLAK

BOMBARDIER KERSCH 1/SGT — (MINOR FACIAL & THROAT FLAK INJURIES) — EVASIED CAPTURE

RADIO OPERATOR UNKNOWN — NO INJURIES — CAPTURED

*-TOP TURRET GUNNER " — (LEG BROKEN DURING JUMP) — CAPTURED

*-BELL TURRET GUNNER " — NO INJURIES — CAPTURED

WAIIST GUNNER " — ? { ONE OF THESE MEN WAS ?

WAIIST GUNNER " — ? { MACHINEGUNNED BY ENEMY
GROUND FORCES & KILLED.
THE OTHER CAPTURED.

*-TAIL GUNNER " NO INJURIES — CAPTURED

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. MAR. 26, 1944 - 1430
ST. OMER, FRANCE (NORD)

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

FIRE IN #4 ENGINE - #2 & #3 ENGINES DEAD FROM FLAK DAMAGE

BOMBS SALVED ON TARGET - O.K.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21,800

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

NAVIGATOR - NOSE & THROAT INJURIES FROM FLAK

BOMBARDIER - MINOR FACIAL & THROAT INJURIES FROM FLAK

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

ALL BAILED OUT - PARACHUTES OPENED

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? PLANE BLEW-UP IN AIR

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

YES - MEMBERS MARKED BY STARS - PERSONALLY SAW THEM BEING
PUT ON PRISON TRAIN BOUND FOR GERMANY

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.

(over)

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

PLANE BLEW UP AT HIGH ALTITUDE, PARTS SCATTERED OVER
LARGE AREA - HAD COMPLETE WING TIP HIDDEN NEAR HIDING PLACE
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.

X

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for
his opinion? THOSE MARKED BY STARS I ACTUALLY SAW AS PRISONERS
THE REST OF THE INFORMATION I RECEIVED FROM RELIABLE
PATRIOTS OF THE UNDERGROUND

Were you wounded? YES

MINOR FACIAL & THROAT INJURIES FROM FLAK

Were you in German hands?

NEVER

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

YES, TO INTELL. OFFICER IN PARIS

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

FIRST DAY & NIGHT A FAMILY HID ME AND GAVE CLOTHING & FOOD
THEIR NAMES ARE UNKNOWN TO ME BUT THIS PERSON KNOWS
THEM VERY WELL:

MR. ARTHUR VAN MULLEN
LEDERZEELE PAR WATTEN
(NORD) FRANCE

What security briefing were you given?

ON WHAT NOT TO TALK ABOUT

What souvenirs do you still possess?

A. PRESENT FROM

F.F.I. PAPERS, FRENCH FLAG (F.F.I.) FRENCH REVOLVER - MY F.F.I. UNIT

Home address. MR CONRAD J. KERSCH % MRS. ELIZABETH BERNTSEN
BOX 35 - FOX RIVER GROVE, ILL.

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

X

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

S/SGT DONALD C. CARTER

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) CONRAD J. KERSCH Signed Conrad J. Kersch
Rank T/SGT. A.S.N. 6558428 Dated SEPT. 19, 1944 Place London
Unit 427TH SQDN. - 303RD BOMB. (H) GP. Witness

RESTRICTED

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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)