

S/Sgt. Robert L. Dillon - 35447379

I bailed out at 5,000 ft. on the 14 Oct 1943 after flak had cut our oxygen supply and fired our plane. I landed 2 miles E of Gournay en Bray (S. Inf.) and was approached by a woman and a boy who buried my chute and hid me in the woods where I remained until nightfall. I walked S until the night of the 16 Oct when I stopped at a farmhouse and declared myself. I was fed and sheltered. The following day I was driven to a small village and transferred to another car driven by Jean. He had brought me clothes into which I changed, and we then drove to the Station where we took a train for Paris. I stayed at his father's house for 3 days, and was then taken by train to a small town outside of Paris. I stayed at a house here until the 9 Nov when I had to leave because the Gestapo were on the trail of the owner's son, a Resistance man. Mlle. Annie Marie Caise, the son's fiancé, took me back to Jean's father's house in Paris, and 2 days later Jean's father moved me to the home of a barber where I stayed a further 2 days. A Mme. Jeanne, a widow who spoke English then moved me to the home of M. Pierre Mucigo near the Chambre des Deputées where I stayed for 13 days. I learned that Lt Jones and Sgt Jezercak had left a few days before my arrival. Mme. Jeanne then took me to the home of Mme. Courmant, who lived with her daughter Simone, a Red Cross worker, at 74, Rue de Rocher, Paris. Seven days later a woman, unknown to me, escorted me by train to Angoulême. Jean Louis Charbasse met us at the station and took me to Chateaufort-sur-Charente where I stayed 3 days at the home of a helper. I then cycled with a friend of Charles Franc to Malaville (Charante) where I stayed at Franc's home. Charles is now a chief of the Committee of Liberation for the Dept of Charante. One week after my arrival at Franc's home I was joined by Lt. Jones and Sgt. Jezercak, and from this point our stories are identical. Jean Louis Charbasse was leader of an Organization which was receiving arms by parachute. We learned later from Charles Franc that he was denounced to the Gestapo by a Collaborator (Gabriel Ballot of Touzac (Charente) knows his name). He was arrested at the station at Angoulême, broke away, was shot twice and then shot himself through the head.

HERE I WAS
GIVEN A
CARTE D'IDENTITE
IDENTITE

R. Sarant
2nd Lt AUS

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 supercedes 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.

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 **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) DILLON ROBERT L.

Signed Robert L. Dillon

Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 35447379

Dated 21 Sept. 1944

Unit 331st SQDN. 94th GROUP

Witness J. Sarant, Staff. HVS

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: SWIEN FORT

Date mission in action: 10/14/43

Date arrived in UK: 9/30/44

DILLON ROBERT L. S/SGT. 35447379

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

SEVENTH (No. of missions)

331st Bomb (Squadron) 94th (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT LT. THOMAS BEAL

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

JAMES E. TRACY

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

ROBERT L. DILLON

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Decorations: AIR MEDAL, OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Date of Birth: MARCH 12, 1922

Private Address: ETHEL, W. VA.

Length of Service: 24 MONTHS, 6 DAYS

Job as Civilian: COAL MINER

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. NO

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? NO

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

Did you have identity papers? FRENCH NO

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

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When? *NO*

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *NO*

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When? *NO*

Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *SEPT. 20*

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.
NONE

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.
NONE

SECRET
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRET

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? *UNKNOWN*
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.

PIERRE MUCIHO Paris 13 days

CHARLES FRANC. MALAVILLE 19 days

GABRIEL BOLLHOT TOUZAC DEC. 22. - FEB. 15

MAQUIS FEB. 15. MAR. 17

GABRIEL BALLOT TOUZAC. MAR. 17. SEPT 12

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

NONE

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

DILLON ROBERT L. S/SGT. 35447379

SEPT 21 1944

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

(Date)

731st Man. 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.

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

ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

5000 FT.

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

YES I DONT KNOW

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

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

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

NONE

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.

NO

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?

NONE

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

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. *1. ATE THEM SPARINGLY*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *FOR BREAKFAST WHILE WALKING*

Milk (tube). _____

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). _____

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *ONE FOR EACH BAG OF WATER*

Matches. *FOR CIGARETTES*

Adhesive tape. _____

Chewing gum. *FOR AIDING THIRST WHILE WALKING*

Water bottle. *TO CARRY WATER WITH ME*

Compass. *TO KEEP THE RIGHT DIRECTION*

Sewing kit. _____

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *BY BURYING 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? *NO*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *YES*
- State color of stripes and letters. *RED*
- If NOT, State why not. *BECAUSE*

- b. Did you use the purse? *YES*

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

Maps. Which ones?

BOTH OF FRANCE

Compass,

YES

File (hacksaw).

NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

2000 FRANC, FRENCH

How did you spend the money?

TOOTH BRUSH AND PASTE, CIGARETTES

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

BURNED

Compass.

BURNED

File (hacksaw).

BURNED

Surplus currency.

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

YES

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

YES

ONE

b. Did you use them?

NO

5. LECTURES

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

YES

SQUADRON PERSON UNKNOWN

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 escapers?

NINE

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.,.....)

NONE

Identity card

Sgt. Dillon

Approached target, our oxygen system was hit, we dropped bombs on target. I passed out. When came to we were in dive, engine was aflame, told to bale out. I jumped out at 5,000 and landed in a beet patch about 2 miles E. of Gournay (E. Rouen) ^{NV B EADVAIJ}
This was the 14 Oct. A lady and boy approached me, shook hands with me and burried my chute. They hid me in the wood where I stayed awaiting their return until 2 hours after dark. When no one came I took off S. Walked until next evening when I went to farm house and declared myself. I was fed and ~~went~~ walked that night. In the morning stopped at another house, they fed me and gave me food but no shelter. That night I stopped at another farm. I was fed and sheltered that night. ~~In the morning~~ At the end of the day was taken in a car to a small town. Transferred to another car, driver had clothes for me. He took me to station and took me to Paris. This latter man was called Jean. He took me to his father's house where I stayed 3 days. I was then taken 45 minutes by train to small town I stayed here until the 9 Nov. at the home of Res. family. I left on the 9th because the org. in which the son worked was busted and the son was being hunted by Gestapo. I was moved to Paris by Annie Marie Caise ~~Male~~ who was the fiancee of the boy. I was taken back to Jean's father's house. I stayed here 2 days only. Then moved by Jean's father to another house in Paris, the home of a barber. Stayed 2 days when moved by Mme Veuve Jeanne who spoke English and moved me on tube to a house where I stayed for 13 days. This was the home of Pierre Mucigo *near the Chambres des Deputes*

When I arrived here I learned that Lt. Jones and Sgt. Jezercak had left a few days before my arrival. (For details of these characters see Jones report) Mme Jean^{ne} took me then to where I was given an identity card the home of Mme. Courmant^{ne}, Rue de Rocher. She was an old lady and lived with her daughter Simone who worked for Red Cross.

I stayed here 7 days and then left for Angouleme with a lady whom I had never seen. At Angouleme we were met by a young man, Jean Louis Charbasse (Charles Franc, Malaville should know him) who took me to Chateau Neuf where I stayed for 3 days at a house in the town. We learned that Charbasse who was chief of Res. org. which was getting arms by parachute was reported by a collaborator (Gabriel Ballot (Touzac ^{S.W. Chateauroux} mayor) know his name) to Gestapo who caught him getting off train at Angouleme. He was caught, broke loose, was shot twice, and then shot himself in head with pistol. From there I left on cycle with a friend of Charles Franc, Malaville, and stayed at Charles Franc's house

until the 22nd ~~when~~ of Dec. when I left with Jones and Jezercak who ~~were~~ arrived ^{1 wk. after} at Franc's house ~~when~~ I arrived. From this point our stories are identical. *Franc is a chief of Committee of Liberation of Charante Dept.*

Mme. Reine Jeanne . . . , who spoke English then
moved me to the home of M. Pierre Mucigo, near
the Chambre des Deputés where I stayed for 13 days.
I learned that Lt Jones & Sgt. Jezercak had left
a few days before my arrival. Mme Jeanne . . .
then took me to the home of Mme Courmant who
lived with her daughter Simone, a Red Cross worker, at
74, Rue de Rocher, Paris. I stayed here 7 days and
then left by train for Angoulême (Charente), escorted
by a woman unknown to me. At Angoulême station we
were met by Jean Louis Charbasse who took me by train
to Chateau-Maupuis Charente where I stayed 3 days at
the home of a helper. Charbasse was leader of an Org.
which was getting arms by parachute. He learned later ~~that~~
from Charles Fournier, ~~Malaville (Charente)~~
that he was denounced ~~by~~ to his taps by a Collaborator
(Coabril Ballot of Touzac (Charente) knows his name
who took him as he left the station at Angoulême. He took
off away, was shot twice, and then shot himself
through the head. I cycled with a friend of Charles Fournier
to Malaville (Charente) where I stayed a woman's home.
~~One week after I arrived here~~, Fournier is now chief of the
Committee of Liberation for the Dept. of Charente.
One week after my arrival at Fournier's home. Lt Jones
& Sgt. Jezercak arrived, and from this point my
story is identical to theirs.

14 Oct

found our plane

Took out our Oxy supply and set our ~~machine on~~ ^{found our plane}
 I passed out but regained consciousness and bailed out
 after a dive brought us to 5000ft. I landed in a
 beets patch 2 miles E of Courmayeur en Bray, S. Sw.
 A woman and a boy ran up to me, ~~hid~~ ^{hid} my chute
 and led me ~~to~~ ^{into} the woods where I remained ^{unattended}
~~until~~ ^{return} ~~3 hrs~~ ^{until} after darkness. ~~There~~ ^{There} no help as they did not
~~return~~ ^{return} ~~help~~ ^{return} ~~did not~~ ^{did not} ~~return~~ ^{return} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~help~~ ^{help} arrived so I headed
 S. ~~walking~~ ^{walking} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~get~~ ^{get} ~~food~~ ^{food}. so I walked ~~made~~ ^{made} my
 way S. until the 3rd night when I stopped at a farm
 and declared myself. I was fed & sheltered until late
 the following day when I was taken in a car to
 a small village. Here I was transferred to another car
 driven by a man called Jean. ~~He~~ ^{He} had brought
 clothes for me which I donned in the car. I dressed
 myself in clothes he had brought along, and we drove
 to the station where we boarded a train for Paris.
 I stayed at his father's house for 3 days and was
 then taken by train to a small town outside of
 Paris where I was sheltered ~~at the home of a family~~
 engaged in Res work. by a family whose son was ^{donned}
 a member of the Res. the boy with which this son ^{donned}
 worked was, the best tape got on the back of this son
 so I was again moved. on the 9 Nov I was again moved,
 this time by Mlle. Anne Marie Cuisi who was the
 son's fiancée. she took me back to Jean's father's
 house in Paris where I stayed for 2 days. I was
 then moved by Jean's father to a barber's house
 where I stayed 2 days