

24 June

Wet by Pak, sailed out at 23,000,
delayed to 12,000, and landed in a field
near a small village near Loan. French
surrounded us. A Priest & greeted me. They
had chuk & went. Ran into woods where an
old Frenchman brought food. We camped back
4 hrs later with Lt. Smith. 3-4 hrs
My Hugh was brought to me. He lay in mud
rest of day. At 6 PM they took us to
farmhouse nearby. At 8 PM Lt. Aston
& Lt. Shragewski were brought in with
spoils of war. Next morning took I, Thugh
& Smith, joined by Shelling at another farm,
by wagon to the woods where transferred to
French car & taken to Chateaudun. Aston &
Shragewski were taken to Paris. He stayed
in woods ~~the~~ near between Chateaudun & Cloye
about a month in camp for crabs. Then I
became of friction between Eng & US. The
French made another camp about 134 m S
where we were moved. He stayed here until
Aug 13. when Americans and came there. Taken
to Le Mans 14. On 15 shipped forward coast
tank overturned & broke. Collar bone about
went to A. S. S. & / L. W. England. Kept in
102 Gen's Hosp. till Sept 23. then to Stone Heath
later sent to Brook St.

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 388.6 (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 388.6 (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) BIES WALTER E

Signed Walter E. Bies

Rank S/Sgt A. S. N. 36533066

Dated 10-1-44

Unit 93rd BG 328 SQ

Witness R. Sarant, Sgt. AW

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

RESTRICTED

S/Sgt. W. E. Bies - 36533066

328/93

24 Jun 16 Aug

Our plane was hit by flak on the 24 June 1944. I baled out and landed in a field near a small village close to Treon(E.& L.). I ran into a woods and was soon followed by a Frenchman who brought me food. 30 minutes later he returned with 2nd Lt. Huitt. About 4 hours later Sgt. Wright was brought to us. We remained hidden in the woods until 6 P.M. when Frenchmen took us to a nearby farmhouse. At 8 P.M. Lt. Aston and S/Sgt. Stracjewski were brought in. The following morning Sgt. Wright, Lt. Huitt and I, joined by Lt. K. Shilling who had been sheltered at a neighboring farmhouse, were taken in a wagon to a woods where we were picked up by a car and taken to Chateaudun(E.& L.). Lt. Aston and S/Sgt. Stracjewski, who had sprained their ankles in landing, were taken to Paris. We stayed in a camp organized by the French for evaders, and located in a wood midway between Cahteaudun and Cloye for about a month. Then, because there was friction between the American and the British evaders, the French took us to another camp about 13 Km S. We stayed here until the 13 Aug. when American units arrived. We were then evacuated through Military channels.

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

Read
R.S.

S/Sgt Sxhuster, Wm E

336/956p

2279

S Ettelbrück - c 1100 with Tortora (RO)

c Shrs before help - walk through woods & fields

Spotted by men & women who tell where we are - ask where

For border - they say sent you around woods to get -
S/SW to Fr border.

C Redange next day ¹⁶⁰⁰

Not in woods (EK) Milked cows Rain
(Had flying harts)

Checking maps & way on - talking - watched by people - women
motion on - didn't do anything.

Took in a few - found post Jug.

M & Mrs Holmes-Simon
Reichling (Lux)
Halt

21 July - 17 Sept

~~Land~~ Canton Redang.
Post Ueldingen.

Met other members Jug who bring some food, clothes.

Police Officer Schmidt in picture (c 37 yrs or more)
well known in section.

Berni Remard (?) are associated

Mueller in picture - right good - living out B
5th Armored Div.

S/Sgt. ^{actor} W. E. Bies - 36533066

328/93

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R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

Read
R.S.

SECRET

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? *No*
- b. If not, why? *Left it at a French home*
- 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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*
State color of stripes and letters.
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? *French maps*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *No*

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

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *French took it*

Compass. *Still have it*

File (hacksaw). *"*

Surplus currency.

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

no

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

no

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *at the Base by Major Lake*

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?

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

BIES W.E. 1st Lt 36533066
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Toulon

Date mission in action: 6-24-44

30 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: 8-16-44

328 (Squadron) 93rd (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Roggenkamp Capt (Don't know)
CO-PILOT Porter Col. (Don't know)
NAVIGATOR Aston Lt. (Last seen June 25th)
BOMBARDIER Schilling Lt. (Escaped)
RADIO OPERATOR Strayuski A.J. 1st Lt (Last seen June 25th)
TOP TURRET GUNNER Arnold 1st Lt (Don't know)
~~BALL TURRET GUNNER~~ Observer 2nd Lt. Huitt - BACK IN ENGLAND
WAIST GUNNER Wright W. (Escaped)
WAIST GUNNER Milot J. (Don't know)
TAIL GUNNER Bies W.E. (Escaped)

Decorations: Air Medal three clusters

Date of Birth: 12-31-20

Private Address: 6645 Cleveland St Detroit, Mich

Length of Service: 22 months

Job as Civilian: Aero Engine mechanic

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Harwich, 5.00 AM.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes

Were you wounded? Give details. Burned face

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? Around 600 Francs

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? 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? *no*

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. *France August 16 by Plane*

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 Adam Strazewski American
1st Lt. Aston American

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

BIES W.E. SSGT 36533066
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

10-1-44
(Date)

(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. 6-24-44 Tunisia

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

Plane burning

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 23,000th feet

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

Don't know

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

Two waist gunners, Bombardier, Navigator, Observer, Radio operator

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Tail gunner
Exploded in air

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

yes 6 members

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

Don't know

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?

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.,.....)

*Didn't see anything, traveled in a position which
I couldn't see a thing, then always hiding in a
camp in the woods.*