

2421
"C" Report

2nd Lt. Walton E. Wiggins - O-682409

My story is the same as that of S/Sgt. John J. Chuck with whom I evaded into Switzerland. I was not evacuated until the 4 October.

When Capt Holvercamp left Switzerland on the 14 Sept. I was asked by Lt. Rexford to help him in his work of getting internees out of Switzerland. One of our helpers is Mme. Mercedes Huntington, an American lady who lives in Vevey. She worked for an Aid Society for Polish Ps/W, and she was instrumental in helping many Polish internees to escape. She also helped many Americans to escape. She would find shelter for the escapers and arrange their removal. The escapers were taken by truck to the border near St. Gingolph (H. Savoie). There was another helper in Monthey. Escapers would be turned over to a Frenchman who was paid 200 francs per man. He would lead the men across the border at a point SW of Morgins. This was a 6 hour march. A Swiss border guard in this area had been bought off by Eileen Sauter of Vevey. She was a relative of Lt. Rexford's wife. I often took coded messages to her from Lt. Rexford.

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

Tiggers

Same as Chuck except
stayed at Blon till 4 bit when
evacuated

Higgins

When on 14 Sept Capt Kobrescamp left I
~~you~~ helped Lt Redford to get men out of
Switzerland.

Mercedes Huntington (USA living in Zevrey)
& working for Pothol P/M Guide, she also helped
them escape. She had contact with Maguire
agents. She would hide men out & arrange for
their removal. The escape route taken by trucks
to border near St Gingolph. Also Contacted at
Monthey from where taken across mountains
by Murgers (6 hours march). Food was
given 200 F a piece. A Swiss border guard in
the area was bought off. ~~Aileen Sauter~~
~~of Zevrey, relative of Redford wife~~

At Monthey a ~~man~~

Aileen Sauter of Zevrey, a relative of Redford's
wife. I took code messages to her re escapees
I understood that she kept guard above.

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) WALTON E. WIGGINS
Rank 2ND LT A. S. N. 0-682407
Unit 728th SQDN 452nd B. GRP

Signed Walter E. Wiggins
Dated OCT. 5, 1944
Witness J. Sarant, 2nd Lt. AUS

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 2ND LT WALTON E. WIGGINS

Unit:- 728th Sqdn. 452nd Grp

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 - MONEY MAPS AND COMPASS

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. ATE THEM WHILE WALKING

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. SAME

Milk (tube). NO

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). USED TWO

Halazone tablets (water purifier). YES (FOR RIVERWATER ETC.)

Matches. YES

Adhesive tape. YES - FOR BLISTERS

Chewing gum. YES

Water bottle. YES

Compass. YES

Sewing kit. NO

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? NO

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? BURNED 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. PURSEa. Did you carry a purse? YES
State color of stripes and letters. YELLOW
If NOT, State why not.b. Did you use the purse? YES FOR FOOD
ALSO USED (MAPS)

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

Maps. Which ones? EASTERN AND SOUTHERN FRANCE

Compass, YES

File (hacksaw). NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRENCH ALL OF IT
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. BURNED ALL BUT ONES USED. THEY WERE
CONFISCATED BY SWISS
Compass.

File (hacksaw). THREW IT AWAY

Surplus currency. NONE

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

NO

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them? NO

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? YES.

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

AT STAGING BASE IN U.S. BEFORE LEAVING.

IN GROUP IN U.K.

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?

EMPHASIZE CARRYING OF GOOD SHOES FOR
WALKING AND FLAGS ETC. OF NEUTRAL AND
ALLIED COUNTRIES LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED

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:

WIGGINS, WALTON F. 2ND LT. 0-682409
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 26 MAR

10 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: OCT. 4

728 (Squadron) 452 (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT P.O.W WAS INFORMED OF P.O.W'S BY RED

CO-PILOT ~~P~~ UNKNOWN CROSS

NAVIGATOR P.O.W

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR HERE NOW

TOP TURRET GUNNER P.O.W.

BALL TURRET GUNNER ESCAPED TO SWITZERLAND - BACK IN U.S.

WAIST GUNNER HERE NOW

WAIST GUNNER P.O.W.

TAIL GUNNER P.O.W.

Decorations: AIR MEDAL

Date of Birth: MARCH 28, 1922

Private Address: 285- 7th ST. GILROY, CALIF.

Length of Service: TWO YEARS

Job as Civilian: TRUCK DRIVER

From what field did you take off? Take off time. DEDPHAM GREEN (452 GP)
0830

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. NO

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? GAVE THEM CLOTHES, WATCH

Do you speak 500 FR. FRANCS FRENCH? AND FOUNTAIN PEN SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? A LITTLE DOG TAGS

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

YES AMERICAN MILITARY ATTACHE BERNE

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

SAME

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~~: SWITZERLAND - MAY 28, 1944

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. ANNECY OCT. 4, 1944

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.

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WIGGINS, WALTER 2ND Lt 0-682409
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

OCT. 5, 1944
(Date)

728th B. SQDN 452nd GP
(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.

EAST OF BESANCON, FRANCE

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

CRASHED, NOT SEVERELY DAMAGED NOT ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? CRASHED

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

NO

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

NONE

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

NO

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

SAW ALL ALIVE AND O.K

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 informant was identified by name or otherwise.

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

WAS BURNING - SET AFIRE BY MYSELF

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?

RADIO OPERATOR, BALL GUNNER, WAIST GUNNER
ESCAPE TO SWITZERLAND WITH ME.

REST P.O.W.'S. NOTIFIED BY RED CROSS - EXCEPT
CO-PILOT - NOT KNOWN

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" 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 OF ANY USE NOW