

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

BASKEY OTTO VERNON SGT 18114921

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

10/5/44

(Date)

385th Yp 548th Sfd.

(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.

FEB. 4, 1944 1:35 PM H.E.S. DELIGUM

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

COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED FROM BALL TURRET FORWARD

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

BLOWN OUT AT 24000

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

YES. RADIO OP. KILLED IN EXPLOSION

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

ALL BUT T.O. + MYSELF. YES.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

AT 24000 FT.

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

YES. 3.

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

YES. FROM NATIVES TO THE POINT OF ESTABLISHING 4 WERE CAPTURED ALMOST AT ONCE.

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.

NONE

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

FOUR CAPTURED. THREE DOUBTFUL. ONE KILLED. TWO ESCAPED.
CONFIRMED BY NATIVES. MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFTER I LAST SAW THEM. I THINK. CERTAIN!

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

POSKEY OTTO VERNON SGT. 18114921
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Frankfurt

Date mission in action: FEB 1944

Date arrived in UK: OCT. 4, 1944

7 (No. of missions)

548 385
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT B.N. HORSTMAN - CAPTURED PERHAPS

CO-PILOT KOSSEF - PRISONER

NAVIGATOR VERNON & KIBINGER - WAS SAFE WHEN I SAW HIM LAST IN FRANCE

BOMBARDIER J. P. HANSON - LEFT HIM IN BELGIUM

RADIO OPERATOR A. L. SEELY - WAS KILLED IN EXPLOSION I THINK.

TOP TURRET GUNNER A. S. SWIDER ESCAPED TO SWITZERLAND

BALL TURRET GUNNER O.V. POSKEY - ENCORE

WAIST GUNNER EARL FLARKERTY PRISONER

WAIST GUNNER P.M. MILNER PRISONER

TAIL GUNNER T.V. GILHAM PRISONER

Decorations:

Date of Birth: 10/31/21

Private Address: CHARLES MAN, TEXAS

Length of Service: MARCH 31, 1942

Job as Civilian: N

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

385 28. 548 540. 7.55

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. N

SEVERE CASE OF FROST BITE BUT NO WOUNDS

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

NO

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

Did you have identity papers? YES Don TAGS

(over)

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.,.....)

THESE ARE ALL IN ALLIED HANDS NOW.

S E C R E T

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

TARGET:

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
(No. of missions)

Date mission in action: _____

Date arrived in UK: _____

(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what
happened to each man
and how you know.

PILOT

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Decorations:

Date of Birth:

Private Address:

Length of Service:

Job as Civilian:

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?
PARTIAL, BY MILITARY ATTACHE IN SWITZERLAND.

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

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
THE SAME AS ABOVE

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?
YES IN SWITZERLAND

Date of arrival in Spain: *✓*

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: *✓*

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *BY AIR OCT. 4, 1944 FROM ANECK*

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.

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-999 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.

GERTIFIGATE

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) ROSKIE OTTO VERNON

Signed Otto V. Roskie

Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 1214921

Dated 6 Oct 44

Unit 225th Inf 548th Sig

Witness John C. M. J.

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *RISKEY OTTO, VERNON 5/SGT 18114921*

Unit:- *385 HP. 548 SOD*

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? *PART*
- b. If not, why? *REST LOST WHEN CHUTE OPENED*
- 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. *WHILE CROSSING BELGIUM + FRANCE*

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?

MAKE A POCKET ON FLYING SUITS ESPECIALLY THE SIZE

2. PURSE

OR PUT A STRAP ON IT SO IT CAN BE OF PACKAGE STRAPPED DOWN.

- a. Did you carry a purse? *YES*
State color of stripes and letters. *I'VE FORGOTTEN.*
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? *BELGIUM + FRANCE*

Compass, *YES*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *2000 FRENCH FR.*
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *TO AN ORGANIZATION*

Compass. *LOST*

File (hacksaw). *THREW AWAY*

Surplus currency. *GAVE IT AWAY*

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?

YES 8

b. Did you use them?

YES BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN BY ENEMY

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

YES AT GROUP BY FORMER ESCAPEES

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

YES IN GIVING ME CONFIDENCE

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapees?

ALL OUTDATED

Landed ^{SW} / Dec - 10 km W Maasticht.

Blow out c 24,000' - fell c 15,000' -

Had pinner back back - fell when ign almost
out - 2d pop almost lost - but hands
frozen together.

1st all right - c 10 mins - got religion - disjunct
equivalent to begetack -

Thb. fuller looks me with Belgian girl very - phras
Card - sl water - in in - I met em -

Lost him on SW corner - c 4 families together
Then that pm

That old man named Jacobs - took - stayed with him
at Canne 4 days -

But in Sinder & Rinsiger

To Eben Enaert fort - Jacobs took - for 4 days -

Then to town - stay with ex-freemason begin men.

A Russian with us.

1st that Melner, Flakuty, Grief, Gillion all
turned in by collaborators & taken by Germans -
Collaborators shot.

c 7 days Jacobs took to Vise - only time that not
perfect hospitality 16 kept 1/2 ration. needed for
Solphous. Major - Molyah Coups.

30 days in room - under a woman who liked Vise by

Had out Hansen Jann - 1st P in country (by description)

A P-st. P in John (lost in -

We move to town - stay with old man & woman - at
on Holland border

C 1 A day there

Back to women there - creek -

To Herstead - went - back to another place
on river - front

Changed over here - no told - some Federation

To Bombay - near Holland - 2 days 2 into with
farmer

Across river from Herstead - 4 days with

Then to Luigi with a priest who picked you up.

Is he just picked off top in 7 days -

Priest said what he is they are by 2 help.

We stay in here in Luigi - giving 1/P

Here met Smith - B-24 co-p from 7 March

2 other men with Smith -

One I taken for N.Y. Principelli

With us in Luigi for a while

To Tilff - 5/10 - 14 days with Cyst -

Left was "Smiling Jack"

Is in - first down - we went back - we have to be that
not - very fast

1 Kissinger & I together - Chailot & Ham & Smith

12d for Spain sent - to Front de Herbert - in Of
at Berlin it stayed by S - motion was not
3 days. Some where - for food & shelter

100 large
& 100 small
old ones

Not find anything
with for

co-p

Met George
Wedd - 94 B 67
Had BT 4 Flog 2
French frii

To Greenville - told to my S - stop in
front of Aubert - SS get -

Used dynamite @ 25 lb for mine - 1/2 for safety
Blow up rocks & water tanks -
Chief for hexamby area - from SA - work with Simon & Ben
Diamond mine.

7 days - Donald S Smith come in

Pilegin minister in leader own mine
But Simon from S though - not know name.

2 days to leave in out - cross frontier between
Greenville & Boulton (Chapell)

2 days with K - then left - Simon is back for me
to S.

Vander - 2 days food at James house - stay at -

Forester stop - my go chief de police Vander - to get I/P.

Figures too early

S - stop supplied filler - some people get I/P.
Election
3-4 into
Roxford - Simon
met from NY - in trip -
subscribed.

Communism - has been first time - Nancy - by the way
about -

G, P in his with Equival - about then then
Sept - has become to club hotels
Gave me who show route -

Start toward Anting - walk - rain - stop house - tell Simon -
but head of org - go to road to Pinyin - touch - with
the - back Equival - & Indian's house - P. 38's - trying to persuade
on to land

In June c 700 killed - 1100 wounded - c 3000 killed
(Benevolence says below Verdun)
I do not know - but it is said - follow power lines.

To Champagne
~~Luxemburg~~

7-50-1
for general

People feel - but not shelter from the
dark.

Delayed by epidemic through German postal
Nicodemus & Benigno Present Villus -
below Montmédard. Saturday.

17 May. Promising.
They give me chance to cross with intention in

Altier - c. 1000

Asked who trust get

13rd Listry - 21 days

across from the

G. down until do 7000

who helped -

M. I. day informed in

Delayed by bills.

MA - EM giving clothing etc - coat, shirt, trousers, shoes
1 box sent. 250 also charged for page
No cooperation for MA.

2426
15.10.44

Appendix C, E&E

S/Sgt Otto V ROSKEY, 18114921, 648 Bomb Sq, 385 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 4 Feb 44
Intvd 6 Oct 44

On 4 Feb 1944 Sgt ROSKEY landed SW of HEES in Belgium, about 10 km W of MAASTRICHT. He had been blown out of his plane at about 24,000 feet and fell free for about 15,000 feet. He almost lost his back pack parachute when it opened, but he stayed in partly because his hands were frozen together. After he landed he spent about ten minutes getting religion and ~~hiding his parachute~~ disposing of his equipment. For a time he hid in a haystack. Then with the aid of his phrase card he began to play Fuller brush man for a Belgian girl. He and she spent some minutes understanding that he wanted to come in and that she wanted him to come in. The house thus entered was the last house on the SW corner of the village, a place at which about four families were together.

That night an old man named JACOBS took ROSKEY to CANNE and kept him there four days. Sgt SWIDER (E&E) and Lt KISINGER of the same crew joined ROSKEY. JACOBS then took the three men to the fort of EBEN EMAEL where they stayed four more days and then went to the town itself. An ex-foreign legion man sheltered them and also four Russians. The men heard that Sgts MILNER, FLAHERTY, and GILLAM and Lt KOSSEF of their crew had been turned over to the Germans by a collaborator. The collaborator was supposed subsequently to have been shot by the patriots.

After four days JACOBS took the Americans to VISE. Of the various places at which ROSKEY was sheltered the hospitality at this one is the only that he would criticise. The men were under the control of one ALPHONSE or ALPHONSO, a former major in the motorcycle corps, who kept for himself one half of the rations which he secured for the evaders. Inasmuch as the woman who was actually sheltering the group herself kept half of the remainder, the men had rather slim eating for some time. They spent about thirty days in one room under the care of this woman whose husband was a prisoner of war in Germany. In the meantime they had met Sgt HANSON of their crew and they had learned that their

pilot, Lt HORSTMAN, was in the neighboring countryside, so far as they could judge from description of another American evader the organization claimed to be sheltering.

A P-51 pilot named John CHALOT joined the group. Shortly after his arrival the group moved to a town down the river (or possibly up, since ROSKEY probably makes the American assumption that all rivers flow S) where they stayed with an old man and an old woman at their house right near the Dutch border. After about 14 days here the group moved back to the slimming woman with whom they had previously been. After another week with her they went to HERSTAL for a night with an old army man. They were told that they changed organizations at this point, having previously been with a group called National Independence Belgique or something similar.

After two days and two nights with a farmer near BOMBAYE the group moved to a place across the river from HERSTAL. They then started toward LIEGE and were picked up by a priest on the way. He informed them that the top man of the organization had just been taken by the Germans and that they could strike out on their own or stay and hope to find help. The men stayed in a house in LIEGE. Here they received I/P. They met a CoP from 94 Bomb Group whose name may be George WEDD. With him was his BTG named Floyd FRANCHINI. They also met a B-24 CoP named SMITH who had been shot down about 4 March. Two other men were with this Smith, one of them an Italian from New York, FRIORPELLI or something similar by name.

After about a week with this organization in LIEGE ~~the~~ ROSKEY and four others went to TILF and stayed about two weeks with a captain from the last war whom they and everyone else knew as Smiling Jack. The day before the night on which the men were to leave the Germans came in the front door while the men disappeared out the back. Under these conditions the men split up and KISINGER and ROSKEY went together. CHALOT, HANSON, and SWIDER went their own way. The men were not quite clear whether they were heading for Spain or for Switzerland. After about three days KISINGER and ROSKEY reached the Foret

d'Herbeumont. Germans at BERTRIX stopped them, but they managed to motion their way out of the difficulty. They stopped at farm houses for food and shelter. On their way to FLORENVILLE they discovered that there were too many Germans ahead. When they stopped in the Foret they fell in with an Armee Blanche group. The Armee Blanche men were getting dynamite which the Germans had brought for use in the mines and the two Americans helped in blowing up a few railroads and some water tanks. The Armee Blanche chief for the Luxembourg section came from South Africa and had worked in American and British diamond mines. Some Belgian minister in London was supposed to own the mines. (Presumably After the men had been in the Foret for about seven days Donald G. the diamond mines referred to but possibly the other mines from which the dynamite was coming.

SMITH, who was definitely a different Smith, joined them.

KISINGER and ROSKEY became bored because there was not enough action and set off on their own, crossing the frontier somewhere between FLORENVILLE and BOUILLON. After continuing together for two days ROSKEY and KISINGER separated, apparently because they thought that it was too dangerous traveling together at a time when the Germans were eagerly looking for young Frenchmen to send to Germany. After two days ROSKEY neared VERDUN. He received food from farmhouses and slept out. Outside of VERDUN a forester advised ROSKEY to see the chief of police in the city and receive an I/P, but such an approach seemed to ROSKEY a bit risky so he ignored the advice. Later he stopped a crippled man and was taken in for three or four nights. In the meantime he was given identity papers and was introduced to Eleaine REXFORD, and American woman from NY, who had been interned and was in some nearby hospital. The organization was going to take a month before it could move ROSKEY, so he would have none of that nonsense of waiting and started out on his own again. Pretty soon his feet began to hurt so he took a bus, about COMMERCEY, and rode to NANCY, reaching it on ^a the day after the Americans had bombed. He continued by bus to EPINAL, having in the meantime been given a most welcome reception by the bus company concerned, and also reached EPINAL just after the Americans had bombed. He had an exciting ride on

the bus with some Luftwaffe pilots whose field had just been blown around a bit. ROSKEY continued his journey by foot, but it began to rain hard so he stopped at a house and was taken in as soon as he explained that he was an American. The head of an organization came and offered to ship ROSKEY by truck to Switzerland. ROSKEY had waited a week. After ~~the week of waiting~~ the Americans again bombed ~~EPINAL~~ EPINAL. ROSKEY spent some hopeful minutes trying to persuade some of the P-38's to land for him. When none did he decided that he better be moving before the German search for the escaped P/W became too intense. ROSKEY was told that some 700 of the P/W were killed and some 1100 were wounded. (He is not quite clear whether the P/W were Senegalese or Indians.)

Following the power lines as guides ROSKEY reached CHAMPGNEY after a journey of four or five days. He received food along the way but not shelter, apparently because of the German search for the escaped P/W. A gendarme once helped him to avoid a German patrol.

Below MONTBELLARD and near PRESENTVILLERS ROSKEY was helped by Georges NICODE, who seemed to be the head of a sabotage group. He and his friends arranged for ROSKEY to cross into Switzerland with a group of contraband men. On 12 May 1944 ROSKEY crossed into Switzerland and went to PORRENTURAY where he was taken by the Swiss authorities. He subsequently went to Alten for about a week, Bad Lostorf for about 21 days, and Glion for the remainder of his stay in Switzerland. He left Glion about 4 October, his departure having been delayed by bills outstanding. The Swiss questioned him to find out who had helped him across the frontier and also who had helped him in occupied territory. He did not relieve their curiosity nor did he answer the questions on military information which they asked him in their usual fashion.

ROSKEY feels that the men received little cooperation from the MA's office. He feels that if the government was charged \$ 250 for the clothing the EM received it is being rather badly gypped.

DEE

ROSKEY did a good evasion, and I should think that his efforts deserve the Bronze Star.