

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. 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.
4. 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:
 - (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. 4a.e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFICATE

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 American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name(Print) RODOLPHE H. RICHER

Signed

Rodolphe H. RicherRank T/Sgt A.S.N. 31128306

Date

Nov. 28, 1943Unit 96th Group 390th Sqd.

Witness

H.W. Baker
Col. G.S.C.

(2)

PRELIMINARY WARNING AGAINST GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
ESCAPE, EVASION OF CAPTURE, OR REPATRIATION.

This applies to all Members of all Services.

1. It is the duty of all persons to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. The Defence regulations make it an offence, punishable with imprisonment to publish or communicate to any unauthorised person any information or anything which purports to be information on any matter which would or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy.
3. This document is brought to your personal notice so that you may clearly understand that information about your escape or how you evaded capture is information which would be useful to the enemy, and that therefore to communicate any information about your escape or how you evaded capture is an offence under the Defence Regulations.
4. At the earliest possible moment you will be interrogated by an Officer or Officers specially appointed for this purpose, who will instruct you how to deal with questions by your family, friends, and members of the public, whether in the services or not.

TO BE COMPLETED IN THE PERSON'S OWN HANDWRITING AND WITNESSED BY AN OFFICER.

I have read the above paragraphs and I understand that I must on no account disclose any information about my escape, evasion of capture, or repatriation, to any unauthorised person, and I undertake to maintain a strict secrecy about my experiences.

Signed. Rodolphe H Richer Date. Dec. 4, 1943

Full name. (Block letters). RODOLPHE, H. RICHER

Rank and Number. TECH. Sgt. 31128306

Unit. 96th Group 390th Sqd.

WITNESSED by.

9 April 1943.

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- 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. 4a.
- e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulsifer
 RALPH PULSIFER, B.T.S.

Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

CERTIFICATE

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 American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) RODOLPHE, H. RICHER Signed Rodolphe H. RicherRank T/SGT ASN 31128306 Date Dec 4, 1943Unit 339th Sqd 96th Bomb Group Witness Rodolphe H. Richer, 1st Lt

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *RODOLPHE, HENRY, RICHER. T/Sgt. 31128306*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *339th SQUADRON*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *96th GROUP*
5. Date of Birth. *OCTOBER 27th 1915*
6. Length of Service. *1 YEAR 3 1/2 mo.*
7. Private Address. *CHARLOTTE, VERMONT*

8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down? *Target Force 20 of Force WORKS 141 SPAIN - SUIZA*
Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?

NEAR PARIS ~~LEFT SOUTHERN HEATH~~ *SOUTHERN HEATH* *SEPT. 15, 1943*
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 4 AND 5 P.M. OVER FRANCE ABOUT 7 P.M. IN FOREST NORTH OF "ASHERS" RAILROAD STATION. YES; PLANE EXPLODED.
S.O.

9. What was your position in aircraft? *RADIO OPERATOR*
10. Were you wounded? *NO*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *NO*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *I SPEAK FRENCH*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *MADE IN FRANCE*
14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when? *YES. AT GIBRALTAR. BY BRITISH CAPT WHO WROTE AS AN ANSWERED. ONLY ON ESCAPE*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *NO*
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *YES; TWO IN MADRID SPAIN AND TWO IN GIBRALTAR*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *OCT. 15, 1943*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *NOV. 28, 1943*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *FROM GIBRALTAR BY AIR. DEC. 3rd 1943*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K.

NEAR PARIS

Dec. 3, 1943

22,000' TO in afternoon c 1930-1960 - Total recall - not my memory - all
test fired - everything in good order. Sews Ch - events - thick 47's - not
paying any attention. Smooth to bomb run - doors open - 1st burst of
flame in front - hit No 1 - center underneath - ignited punctured gas line -
fire went up? propeller - enormous flame beyond wing. Reported
No 1 as fire - he pumped for anything. Matter / seconds 1st gave order bail
out - turned on bell - I had Radio papers ready to be destroyed - put in
out mouth - getting chute out BB. The back seat pulling emergency in door
to jump - saw underfoot - just not - explosion while I in air. Just before
out wing broke off at No 1. Saw plane in fire - idea duly jump. Left 22,000'
went down 16-17,000'. After chute open - while going down below the
explosion - meant to me that another plane exploded - but saw not know -
my loss.
Saw one more chute besides mine. Floated down. Headed for river.
Spilling chute (had been instructed) away from river - crossed by jet &
station - landed in woods - in tree - hanging c 15'. 8 ft came from
eye - asked in to if knife - on 31 then p - cut w/ cut of straps -
down to ground. Told me digress in - but 35 - after me. Started
pull chute down - they say destroy it - they cut it off. Wound by W. W. E.
Ran my idea hide - went W c 100 yds - threw myself in tall grass -
under branches dangling from tree - No more than quiet. 31's came
along armed with rifles. To lead just got rid of chute - asked 31
what I was (I would hear & see) - pointed in all directions. They
headed it for me - with in 6' from - go & back then on other side -
went around me c 3 times - looked through grass with rifles - then dis-
appeared - walked off - my idea stay there - figure some might be waiting.
25.30 min - 2 others came from behind tree - did see as first.
Still way - Then to 1200-0000 when moon rose - not back on my
tracks - at into woods - 2000 yds - circled around plane when down - back
to road - see it plainly - caught train passed. By road c 3/4 hr
Cont'd keeping rd in view - 50-60 yds - listen - to 0600. Daylight -
ran into patch of black berries - eat - no food while day before.
Went deeper into woods because of daylight. To path - headed N instead of
W - back into woods - walked carefully to 0900 - stopping regularly.
Could hear axe - spotted 2 young fellows - 17 other 18 - older working in
to factory. Stopped - lit gun - 1st speak - 1st to - on down good as
next - walked to them. Spoke to - gave identification - ask for cloth -
flying weavels - 31's - hurried being sent in woods [Cut all saw top of]
They seemed little long nice spots 31. Showed them 31 parts & indicated - mention

1/4 clear - pulled out dog tags - other bit in back of shoe. Amifix a dog tag.
Then second rat is fixed. Walked 50 yds - wait. Saw horse - both went to it.
In few minutes - ran up to horse when motioned - lady gave me cup of coffee -
head - [reaction very steep in to] not want over eat - get sick.

Clayed
shoes

Few minutes younger on back with trousers, sweater, suit coat of diff
color - shoes: Clayed clothes - they burned mine.
Older told me wait - see if find help. Meantime man of house in - takes care
guests - employed by SS - knew working for SS against will. Arthur
Another fellow c 35, short, 5'4", 138-140 took me to only - his house
by 1030 - by 6 SS - talking to with man - Marcel.

Just back
of 2 weeks

Started paying down, had been 1/2 of 39 mos - out for condensed
richness.

1 kept out 14 - me 14 days - shared 1/2 with me - in house all time

Said last shot next door to welcome SS's

Father got in last war - paralyzed since

Setting afraid neighbors suspicious - he not have back so short of
18 yr old trying hit me - had been away from work 4 days.

Finally found some people in Paris

c 1901 18th day 18 yr old told me leaving town now -

c 1130 17 " - told me get dressed - people here to get me -

Left - walked SE c 5 min - to his house - wealthy people - in:
Man, wife, dtr - c 40, 16. Introduced to brother's sister.

Who can after me - c 19, 17-18 - Arthur, and son/daughter.

5'6" both 130/120

Left on 13/5 train - he had some ident ity papers - not any photo
Am in am with girl to station - he is ahead.

Sat together in train - we together, he ahead.

Paris - to street - 3 d floor photos taken - girl & myself. Then to her
place - 13 Ave. Pierre Kleen / Jeanne Jeanne. From then on

Pierre help me out. Aunt taking care of girl. met her & husband.
Woman's brother in law brother - son short of 6 - old man 80 live with

Then 12 days - 6th day proposition - go in Paris without papers train
fellow - Pierre my not go - then holding \$0 for 1 [SS]

11th day - fellow in t get name for papers. - Escorted me to arrange papers
think really Polish - seen round below left eye - said then

How diff plans - SS 4 times & escaped - now working for this or

Henri Riché name I used

0830 next day ident ity papers.

12th day Georges in 1930 - to my station - 2000 train to Lourdes.
Following morning 0900 - SS checked papers - took 1 boy with fake papers.
saw no stamp - said have in leave from 15

Had no
pictures
with me

In Landes ~~women~~ to big bldg - he in alone - women 35 down - blood
Georgy led 2 Poles, 2 Dutch in train good or - had st ink of
Went to hotel, 2 1/2 days - To shuni, walked some 2 high ranking, I -
around good deal. May 35 around - thick and killed - doing with as
that some going through - looking for people helping revenge & help

By Am.
Left - to Bannieres with ^{blood} women - 2d time saw - 1230 train -
Got off train with party 11 - only Am or Br. W. second high -
1st lunch with Georgy earlier

Met guide in main road - but not one who actually took us
To woods - c 1530 - until 2000 - to be like not staying formation.
2 guides at 2000 - had noise in bushes - more fellows in - 21 of us with

from 2000 Wed nt (thick) - heavy find it - pass little lake walked
3 nts & 2 days traveling - had going - I met before de break
in condition. Last nt I was led to hotel with - before Dutch show.
all got through

Had accident in 1927 - 3d nt c 2130 leg bolted me - going
down steep mt - made no effort to show other smooth in, any -
but heel over jammed mt. Stick had gone into leg & mt -
Told them couldn't go on - not want them stop - massaged me -
Got up - helped me along 100 yds - but then down embankment -
when on level again could walk on - over bodies st still to head
ground - when climb again c 5300 struck - from then on carried me -
to 6430. To cabin in Spain - last leg - 3 others & I stg there - I had
blanket - leg in good - then to 6730 - staided down - walked on. met
Esp border patrol - 2 mex fellows - c 1900 - 2/3 hollandes still
behind - not in grass

To Bielea where patrol w/ 1/2 sq. Searched ^{through} - not find dog tags in bed of shoes.
Took 2 money bag - 658 fcs

After gave names - eat, soap. To ques in barn - 1 on 3d floor in by - 2 nts 1
& dog

Then S to Bombastro - took passport & name - MA got Rudolph
Oscar of this not out in 6 days -
To Santa Remon in B - call from MA MADRID - 2 days & 2 nts
Esp Ar O. to Saragossa - 12-13 days - 1st of. T. Alamo -
c 10-12 days.

14 Oct
Arrived border
15 Oct

14 days
in

The following information has been obtained from our interview with
..... (.....) who escaped after capture
by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy/enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not
to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from
to.....

Burgdese

The "Ashes S.O." Railway Station and yard is
a large center. It branches off in every
direction and is used very much for troop
movements, ammunitions and such. There was
also a large ammunition dump northeast
of the depot just at the edge of the forest.
Obs 15 Sept.

29 Sept Trainload of troops going
toward Paris passed through (Kistner
had tanks & trucks (shape body)
& ammunition cars. Obs.

Debris of Forts seen piled
in the R.R. yard. Center of military
activity as branches of all R.R. Tracks
can be heard all night long

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

Stenel msk

E & E REPORT NO. 255
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Rodolphe Henry RICHER, T/Sgt 31128306
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

339th Bomb Sqd. 96 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 28
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 YEAR 3 1/2 MO.
HOME ADDRESS: CHARLOTTE
VERMONT

MIA: 15 September 1943

Arrived in Spain:

OCT. 15th 43

Arrived in Gibraltar:

NOV. 28th 43

Arrived in UK:

Dec. 3rd 43
Dec

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-795829 1st Lt James Vernon RICHARDSON	MIA KIA
CO-PILOT	0-679059 2d Lt Lawrence Leroy DUBE <i>44</i>	MIA MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-801097 2d Lt Elmer Leon SMITH <i>✓</i>	MIA KIA
BOMBARDIER	0-729323 2d Lt George William FRANK <i>✓</i>	MIA KIA
RADIO OPERATOR	31128306 T/Sgt Rodolphe Henry RICHER	NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34381157 T/Sgt Lonnie Austin TURNER	MIA KIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	13048059 S/Sgt Joseph B SCARANO <i>✓</i>	MIA KIA
WAIST GUNNER	16084794 S/Sgt Donald McClure REID	MIA KIA
WAIST GUNNER	32456940 S/Sgt Henry Seaver CABALLERO	MIA KIA
TAIL GUNNER	11084076 Sgt Edwin Walter McMAHON <i>✓</i>	MIA KIA

plane exploded

Were you wounded? *NO*

SNATTERTON HEATH
15 SEPTEMBER
1943

FLAK HIT
No 1 ENGINE

Bailed out

LANDED
IN TREE

HELPED BY
FRENCH

HID

JUST BEFORE
GERMANS CAME

they pointed in all directions. The Germans seemed uncertain which direction to go and headed straight for me. They passed within six feet of me, walked on, and then came back and passed on the other side of me. They passed me several more times, then disappeared. I thought I had better stay where I was, for I feared they might leave some men in the vicinity. About 25 or 30 minutes later I saw two Germans come from behind trees not far away. I was happy that I had not moved. After they disappeared I ~~still~~ stayed where I was and did not move until midnight when the moon rose.

I started out through the woods carefully, ~~circling around~~ the place where I had come down, and reached ~~the~~ a road and a rail road. Several trains passed. I followed the road some distance back from it until about 0600, walking 50 or 60 yards and then listening, keeping the road always in view ^{without being} ~~but never~~ visible from it. About daylight I ran into a blackberry patch and enjoyed the first ^{food} ~~full meal~~ I had had since early the day before. As it became lighter, I went deeper into the woods. I came to a path and head north, farther into the woods, instead of west as I had been going. I walked carefully until 0900, regularly stopping to listen for any sounds of danger.

I could hear someone chopping. I moved on quietly and saw two young men. I watched them for some time and heard them speak French to each other. I thought that one chance was as good as the next, so I approached them, told them who I was, and asked them if they could get me some civilian clothing. I was then wearing my flying coveralls and GI shoes. I had buried my flying suit in the woods after cutting all my name tags off. The two Frenchmen seemed a little suspicious of me because I spoke French. I showed them my GI trousers and undershirt, but they still seemed uncertain. I had hid one dog tag in the heel of my shoe---where I left it until I reached Spain---but I showed them my other one, and they seemed satisfied that I was all right.

We walked a bit to a house where they gave me some food. I ate sparingly of it because I had had little to eat and did not want to get sick from eating too much too soon. They seemed to be pretty poor people, too, and I did not want to eat

BUT THEY
MISSED HIM

WALKED
ALL NIGHT

APPROACHED
FRENCHMEN

WHO WERE
SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE
HE SPOKE
FRENCH

BUT HELPED
HIM

all their meagre rations. They insisted that I ~~sat~~ for dinner/ and were most generous to me, sharing with me everything they had, which was little indeed.

From there my journey was arranged.

Compiled by:

D E EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Approved by:

W. S. Holt
W STOLL HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

Appendices ~~A-E~~ A, C-E

No B: No Military information

Appendix B

1.

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- RODOLPHE, H. RICHER. TECH. SGT. ASN. 31128306

Unit:- 339th BOMB, Sgd. 96th BOMB GROUP.

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must 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, had you one on you?
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets. —

Chocolate.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. —

Water bottle.

Compass. —

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? NO
If so, in what respect?

- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? BARRIED IN FORREST

- (g) 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
If so, state COLOR. GREEN
In NOT, State why not.
- (b) Did you use the purse? YES
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones? — OF FRANCE

Compass. YES

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *HAD FRENCH CURRENCY. SPENT SOME FOR CIGARETTES AND SOME TO PAY THOSE WHO HELPED ME.*

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *BURNED*

Compass. *BURIED*

File (hacksaw). *BURIED*

Surplus currency. *TAKEN AWAY BY SPANISH OFFICIERS*

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) - *NON*
(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?
If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass.

Stud compass. *YES*

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? *NO*
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them?
State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES*

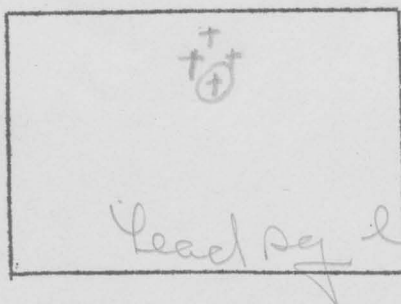
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *BOVINGTON BY ENGLISH CHAP AND ALSO BY A CAPTAIN*

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

YES

NAME RODOLPHE, H. RICHER RANK TECH. SGT. ASN 31128306 REPORT NO. 255

SQ 339 GROUP 96 A/C NO. 421 Letter A Load 10-500 Date SEPT. 15, 1943



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

NO; WENT DOWN BEFORE REACHING TARGET. HIT BY
FLAK; NO ENGINE AND CAUGHT FIRE

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

Markings:

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support: EXCELLENT

<u>Flak</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
<u>HEAVY, VERY ACCURATE</u>	<u>ABOUT 6:50 P.M.</u>	<u>ON BOMB RUN</u>	<u>HEAVY FLAK</u>

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

Miscellaneous:

NONE

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

NONE
Not mtd