

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943

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 ANDREWS:

*Ralph Pulsifer*  
RALPH PULSIFER,  
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) Booth William H. Signed William H Booth  
Rank 2nd Lt ASN 0-800093 Date 12/18/43  
Unit 349th Sqd 100th GP Witness \_\_\_\_\_

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19 October 1942

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(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,  
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Name(Print) BOOTH, WILLIAM H. Signed William H. Booth

Rank 2nd Lt. A.S.N. 0-800093 Date December 15 1943

Unit 349th Sqdn 100th Group Witness Hon. W. H. H. H.

C. G. S. C.

(3)

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. *William H Booth, 2nd Lt, O-800093*
2. Decorations. *None*
3. Unit or Squadron. *349th Sqdn 100th Group 8th USAAF*
4. Division (Army) or Group.
5. Date of Birth. *Nov. 12, 1915*
6. Length of Service, *1 1/2 yrs*
7. Private Address. *805 Taft Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa.*
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?  
Were aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?  
*Thorpe Abbot, Sept 3rd 1943, 0700.  
Ballancourt, South of Paris, at 0930  
According to reports of French - all of  
the plane, papers, & instruments were destroyed  
In Fire.*
9. What was your position in aircraft?  
*Navigator*
10. Were you wounded? *No*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No.*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *A little French*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes*
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?  
*British Intelligence, Gibraltar 12/16/43  
No written Report*
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?
17. *12/13 Alhama de Aragon, Spain, 12/16 Gibraltar*  
Date of arrival in Spain.
18. *11/18/43*  
Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
19. *12/15/43*  
Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
20. *Gibraltar 12/18/43 Air*  
Place and date of arrival in U.K.  
*Bristol 12/18*



Booth speaks: thru flak area - flak in nose - FW at the  
gun from front & fired at him - knelt down running gun  
forward of flak over - had pvt say p to 30 - moved -  
Oayin made helmet - put in chest pack - was about to  
replace headphones when Roubide went by in to hold way  
& opened door & went out - I turned around & saw Smith just  
jog out hatch - knelt down & gave him 2 seconds & 2  
out - must have fallen 6<sup>000</sup> ft to 17000 ft - still spinning  
forward of long consensus - 1 chute blew 3 to 400 ft -  
then still spinning - I'd see % in slow spin to ground - 1 wing  
end on fire - % hit & had explosion - saw plane bang -  
saw me 19 3000 ft below at 5000 ft - had a report of a shot  
went thru chute & made 7 holes size of apple - about  
5000 ft - 6 Ju 88 taking off & approaching me - in  
level saw him toward stream - directed fall into  
thinly wooded area - chute caught in tree top & I fell  
into ground - unknelt chute - from air saw people  
coming toward me - didn't distinguish who were - when out of  
M.W. to edge of wood & saw Frenchman looking for  
me - approaching. They didn't see me - I tried to buy coming my  
bitch - he saw me - called to a man - two came to me - other following -  
man said - American - yes, I said - shook hands with me -  
he called to Frenchman & said, Amer - They shook hands - 6 in party - led to the 6 in -  
I came selves - asked I tried to say went to hotel - They said man coming who called  
English - in called I tried to say explosion - talked about cigarettes -  
gave them chewing gum - was were about 50 ft from edge of woods - man putting  
I had someone coming - then Smith came hobbling up - one of Frenchman came  
to us & said he had taken chute down & tied it - told M.W. - together now

into Paris - heavy flak - spruce blow - gas tank hit - made  
turn - saw #1 on fire - metal being loose - plt told crew to prepare BO -  
metal plating off wings - BO order - I got out of seat into lower  
balcony - Paride was getting out escape door - Booth sneaking  
in door - plt out of seat & to Bomb Bay - Think he put on AFCE  
~~the~~ aft back fire bomb bay - Bomb bay doors not open -  
Bomb in rack - plt back to seat when a/c lurched -  
Booth (Bomber) still getting chute - I went out - plt &  
engineer behind me - made steep jump from 23,000  
ft to 13,000 ft - broke ribs when chute opened - position  
of body probable cause - in torque body spin - didn't  
see ground - pulled rig - saw Harris' chute higher  
than I - close 5 other chutes - (7 mail) - between  
34,500 ft two shots fired from ground - light flak -  
whistled by - at 2,000 - me 110 on same level in  
range & turned away - landed in ag. beet field -  
fractured ankle - had seen farms running toward  
me - less 1 km from Balancourt - farms picked  
me up - took chute & f.e. off - Two French put  
me on feet & started me running & put direction - toward  
woods hill - 2 1/2 to 3 kms - saw 3 Herrys 1/4 mile away -  
didn't see me - that I was farmer - ran toward with ankle -  
hunting badly - French saw me coming to woods & sent  
boy out after me - followed him & found Booth

2  
Man came who <sup>could</sup> speak Eng - and said that Americans -  
talked about what to do with us - didn't know - They hid in a place - told  
us to follow old man after they said Jerry on way - no hurry - took  
off flying suit & boots - followed man along edge of woods - 1/2 km -  
climbed hill & roof - another odd area - cave in rocks - told to  
stay there till 2 p.m. - came with food - <sup>Eng Sp</sup> man directing operations -  
in cave - had escape kit but none from chute - back at 8 p.m. during  
afternoon laid in cave - whispering - saw no sign of Jerry though told  
he was in nets - bread etc at 8 p.m. - gave a bunch of 300 francs  
for civies - no clothes or money <sup>back</sup> - Eng speaking man said two  
Captains & one pilot - said bring doctor & would come back  
following night - left - returned <sup>p.m.</sup> next day - laid in cave to keep warm  
next day - at 4 Dr came - clothes - Dr was med student - Eng sp.  
he seemed to take charge - was in Org - Jacques - local org -  
Jacques took care of Smith's foot - stayed with us - not left & returned  
at 11 p.m. - made letter - carried me to road - in civies now - rode  
cycle for 9 miles to Soisy - stayed at church - met Mayor Georges  
Lievre (head of org of district) & Mrs. Vuscher <sup>adjutant</sup> x Smithy to bed in  
guests' quarters & brought to M. Vuscher's house - Smithy in bed till  
10 Oct when cast removed - another Dr by name NORBERT - head of  
Dr of Liberatorists - both at Vuscher's after (5th to Soisy) 8th Sept -  
Both at Vuscher's (10th cast in 5th leg) & left there 11th for  
M. Le Coop in Soisy - Smithy's house - Smithy's house -  
lived here 3 weeks until 30th Sept - Vuscher taking care of us -  
was in charge of everything - Mrs. Bataillet furnished food -  
photos taken at Dr. Vuscher's - Before Enzy de Coop - Duke Le Coop  
brought pictures to us - Maurice <sup>21 y old</sup> (Eng speaking) met at Vuscher's - he has brother  
in England - father is Paris banker - owned chateau COURANCES - father  
Eng sp with Eng accent - came to see us - We told that father of Maurice was  
head of Inst - a Russian Lt Col to the town had escaped from PW camp -  
(pictures taken by Theophile - F.H.)



4  
On 30<sup>th</sup> Luke & I took us back to Preest's - stayed overnight & went to Baboulet - slept there 2 nites - Albert, nephew of Vurscher took us to Vurscher's - in there - met ~~John & René~~ & went with Luke (male, new person) & René to St Germain s. Ecole - wanted to get out of St Oise because Gestapo closing in - moved 56 on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct -

Luke moved cafe & grocery store - stayed here til 25<sup>th</sup> Oct - met local patriots - lived over cafe - never out - little workshopping - once girl came & said to go to her house & went with Luke's wife ~~to her~~ then M. Vurscher came & said it was a mistake - clothing + I'd not ready - went to Albert's by car - 25<sup>th</sup> - new man drove us to Albert in Mully - Albert Destailleur - there til 10<sup>th</sup> - also all time were going to leave soon - taken to PARIS by 37 yr old lady - slim 5'5" - dark - straight black hair, glasses - taken to an apt & met Belgian who was head of Org - ap 8 langs - he told us that about 60 <sup>German</sup> parachutists had been landed from B-17s & many Indians caught - said hard to make identifications - met day Billy moved us to another apt & stayed 6 days with Dr. Guyon - at this was an Sgt. (Chicago) (he lost 265 lbs. 10 yrs - saw 8 children) - 50 Rue de Bone - across from St Lazare station - then man came ~~for~~ for us & taken to (16<sup>th</sup>) <sup>now</sup> to Bordeaux station - met Belgian - given glasses - Girl came along & went with her - cafe - to station - she ahead of us to Henri Nell (Belg in Eng army - saboteur) + they went thru gate & we followed them into compartment of train - to BORDEAUX at 17<sup>th</sup> - met guide (thin, 5'9, dark, English <sup>habits - throwing head to side (little)</sup>) given raincoat - train to Dax with Nell - thru station & given bicycles + were joined by Sgt Sheets & S/Mr Wallington - cafe - left Nell who went to Bayonne - cycled to Bayonne - met girl few mins from Bayonne on cycle - Smithy & Sheets with girl - Wallington & I with guide - all thru Bayonne - along river - toward Biarritz - to cafe ~~at~~ mile from Biarritz - spent night - next day Nell & girl & guide took us to Biarritz - cycled 15 kms to almost AINHOA where met 2 <sup>very</sup> border patrol & time to mud road

Sp. hid - Gerry disappeared - went to field + met Sp.  
Guerds (Basques) - gave I's to girl - gave 500 francs  
apiece to girl - <sup>then</sup> gave quite a letter + money - gave Hall  
500 pesetas - across fields - climbed up + down for 8 1/2 hrs -  
on 1st mt Smitty gave out - pebbles + choc. berries run -  
came out at Sp. farmhouse 200 yds over 18 Nov - snow-  
don of fame took us close to town (picked up W/under? John Senior, a  
Belgian ambassador - no W/under though) - woman of house tried  
to get car - clanked car - tried to get heavy driver to take us  
to San Sebastian - we went to Guardia Civil in  
Don - small village - near AINHOA -  
reported to border police next day - asked some cards + AEN -  
home address - stayed hotel - Red Cross gave for food + lodging - on 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bus to Irurita + to Iruia by train - with Guardia  
Civil - right to frontier Guardia Civil + then to  
Sp. AF - to Hotel Norte - to Inn police for picture + prints -  
Stayed - week + several days - to 4 Dec - then to Saragosa -  
rooms in Hotel Oriental - 1 night - to Alhama D'Aragon -  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec - Madrid - myoelark - to Lib. arriving on  
15<sup>th</sup> - am. UK 18<sup>th</sup>