

(1)

**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.

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 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) Donald A. Hestert  
Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. 0-530723  
Unit 66th Bomb Sqdn (H)

Signed Donald A. Hestert  
Dated 7-30-44  
Witness H. J. Cannon 1st Lt AGS

**RESTRICTED**

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH  
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. *Donald J. Heskett 1st Lt 0-520727*
2. Decorations. *Air Medal and Cluster qualified but not awarded.*
3. Unit or Squadron. *66th Bomb Sqdn. (H)*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *8th AIR FORCE 49 Bomb Gp*
5. Date of Birth. *7/23/22*
6. Length of Service. *3 years 4 months*
7. Private Address. *618 West 14th Street, Junction City, Kansas*
8. Job as civilian. *student*
9. From what field did you take off? *A.R.F. STA. 115, Shipdham, Eng.*
10. Take off time. *Approximately 09:00.*
11. Date and target. *12-30-43 LudwigsHAVEN, GERMANY*
12. Where did you land? *Souisson, FRANCE (Sancy?)*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *yes, PLANE exploded with Bombs when it hit.*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *Pilot*
15. Were you wounded? *Minor bruises incurred bailing out.*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No.*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *No -*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *yes <sup>No DOG TAGS</sup> one identity card.*
19. 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?  
*No*
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *No*
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *yes.*
22. Date of arrival in Spain. *—*
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *—*
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *1-29-43 by sea Plouha, FRANCE*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Dartmouth, Eng. 1-29-43*

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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



E & E REPORT NO. 347  
EVASION IN FRANCE

1-30-44  
(Date)

Donald S. Heskett 1st Lt. 0-530727  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Ludwigshaven

66th Bomb 44th  
(Squadron) (Group)

MIA: 12-30-43  
Arrived in UK: 1-29-45

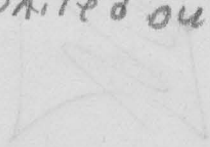
MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT <u>Heskett</u>		
CO-PILOT <u>JAMES R. Billings 1st Lt. 0-696728</u>		<u>Narrator</u>
NAVIGATOR <u>William A. Rendall 1st Lt.</u>		
BOMBARDIER <u>Adolph Zielenkiewicz 1st Lt.</u>		
RADIO OPERATOR <u>Eugene Symons T/sgt.</u>		
TOP TURRET GUNNER _____	<u>1st Lt. Pilot's NAME</u>	<u>- SAUL FIREMAN</u>
BALL TURRET GUNNER <u>Stanley G. Langcasky S/sgt</u>		<u>1st Lt. A.B. SAME Sgdn.</u>
WAIST GUNNER <u>Aulis L. Blitz S/sgt</u>		
WAIST GUNNER <u>C. W. Cregger Sgt.</u>		
TAIL GUNNER <u>George R. Miller S/sgt.</u>		

Were you wounded?

I had Head, leg, and back bruises incurred while getting out of plane.

I know that The copilot, top turret and Radio man  
bailed out.



FAC

KOREA

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

Int France - pulling 45" trying to keep up with leader  
to see keeping with him - not in 1 brief position - appears  
to be N.3 - high element - I took over N.2 position.

About 1155 - 2 engines just stopped - hit by bullets - 1st indicator  
I attack - then lost in fog - put me into spin. Could never  
pull out of spin - wing alt it - made completely across. Tied  
own back at - 5 tons over SP - very bell. Plans kept attacking  
down to 8000' - that all other men had time to go out - told  
Co-P go back. Checked equipment - picked OK & gave from  
behind seat - back pack slung. Gy - red man barked out.

Co-P trying to get by of equipment - piled him out. I tried  
to get out - plan started falling almost at once - I held in  
hands frozen face. Finally managed get out - plans  
plans thrown - I held grip what just, ES see - part of plans  
exploded, pulled chute - then in cloud layer - opened  
immediately - I bent by head & back trying to get out -  
threw and with boots, glasses, etc. Wore 1st shoes. Spilled  
chute immediately also landed - backwards in by ditch in  
slight of wooded area - not hurt. Gull leaves over chute - in hole.

On  
tracks  
of which  
suggested

Don  
planchet  
in  
field -  
was -  
bullets  
exploded  
for next  
1/2 hr

These people ~~was~~ moving toward me - ran away with all clothes.  
C 1/2 mi into woods. Took of electric flying suit, gloves, -  
hid in hollow. 1 hole in woods near road to left. Opened up  
engine hit - emptied it off into pockets. Burned but of pump - tied  
breath in my - that in back. While looking saw men on road looking at  
me - spoke something - that I - went down to his stock hands. He  
seemed that know whether I want to Prison - seemed to be German escapee  
at time. I indicate no - pretend run away. Then start lead me to his  
place - to a stone wall. To him in a quarry. 1300 mi & black  
bread - gave men 1 lb of Gy - Cons - but dark to have in little  
town. Told me 15 km from Swiss - (Swiss SW)

Got girl who been taking Gy - told me get me ticket - by take to me  
sleep with him. Robert - brother in law of ~~Maxime Vallant~~ Vallant  
I'm moving out on bicycles to Swiss. - ~~Policiemen in Paris~~ Policiemen in Paris. 6 Rue de  
Mumbenge, Paris

T line that night - Told them want get ticket & Spanish books. Told do what  
3 Jan <sup>got in tank</sup> went to <sup>with</sup> A/P shop. spoke good English like him  
944 St Denis - Jacques. Karel took me to - 1/2 km from Java -  
Part of Java ~~presently~~ - father part of Duit ch.

37 5'6" 115 glasses, tartan shirt, light complexion.

next to last stair case to Jean Coeur - turn to left - he on it side at first block - bldy with large red door - works there. Stayed bit near Jacques's another place - Chateaux Rouge Metro station - Block any.

Smith Georges - escaped French POW escaped killed grad.  
6? 24 - very tall - long - 6' - 190 - dark complexion, dark hair  
7? and hair.

12 Fred Smith & John Sullivan to Jacques house - to 19 left for but then. Told 5 other Am's in Paris.  
C 19 met Madeline - went to college at Boston, then back to France.

She told that not going over Pyrenees.  
35 - regular features, light brown hair, c 5'9" c 120 lbs

Ordinary type of person in appearance.  
19 Mad led photo taken at place in metro station  
20 Mad took to other Am - picked up Smith, Sullivan - to station - Picked up another man - gave tickets. He on though with us to train - 10th reg. wisdom - 1st Bruni - Madeline not ably. Man led woman with him -

Pages checked by guides at station St B  
2 - c 0500 To have couple blocks from station - then found Russian born on train with us Van B - 1st with us from this on. Eye speaking man came  
C 1630 - This man, yard & the man go with us "gachy" c 5'9", heavily bearded - young mustache  
by train to Plouha - c dark. Picked up 28 - been at law course in  
another man - "gachy" following in car. Eye - light in Dr Prof.

May have trying to catch - to have in country. Same couple - brother & sister - in 23  
night 23 to house c 3 hrs - stayed there until night we left - in town

night 29 waiting for message over radio - to house in town - c 2200  
Jeanne women at this house had picked us up at train - took us to

c 2238 show of Capt - short, c 5'5", long suit - c 150 lbs - broad shoulders  
mustache, dark brown hair. Probably 30  
Jeanne took to by Capt - told being on boat. Val Williams Capt with  
by day - been with Russian - started carrying fur in stretch - found  
stretchers out work - another fellow & I carried Am to beach.  
wait for boat - 4 new boats came in - c 15" - 3 men each.  
in little boat included cover.

Capt was a Russian & other help and was remember:  
C 03<sup>00</sup> look to light gun boat closer - rough sail as far as  
getting rich - to Dard mouth 0930. To another boat to  
eat.

19-13 hrs 3 Br 1 Russian 1 Frenchman - pilot - his mother's  
house in @ we stayed in town - his sister the other guide going  
to me.

One armed Cylich captain but was on security - he got letters.  
Sg nothing to anybody and then.  
Kept us on boat. At dark - c 0955 on motor boat - caught by  
T. team -

B | July - T. let area S of Bordeaux practically devoid of  
+ gens +  
B | is trying to get along with French.

To Jacques:  
Bon Jacques Donald John Dedche sort Henri  
Amis

To Manis -  
To Manis & Robert Tout va bien - on 10<sup>+</sup> or 11 m  
2130 Algerian BBC broadcasts

Letter to Polish Ambassador Am de Poloni, Luchas, Angletan -  
from 19<sup>Jan</sup> 2 by at other time in Paris - 19 Jacques' friends.

1 from Jacques for woman in Casablanca.  
1 to Chief de Cabinet of De Gaulle  
M Esanton Pawleski.

4.2.44

For Action

✓ 1. Get complete crew

✓ 2. For TAG form:

Knows only that Co-P,  
TTG & RO bailed out.

9  
6

6:45  
9:40



(4)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 347  
EVASION IN FRANCE

30 January 1944  
(Date)

DONALD J HESKETT, 1st Lt, O-530727

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

66th Bomb

44th Bomb

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Squadron)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Group)

TARGET: LUDWIGSHAVEN

MIA: 30 December 1943

Arrived in Spain: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived in Gibraltar: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived in UK:  
29 January 1944

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-530727	1st Lt	Donald J HESKETT	NARRATOR	
CO-PILOT	O-676728	1st Lt	James R BILLINGS	MIA	
NAVIGATOR	O-678767	1st Lt	William A RENDALL	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	O-735010	1st Lt	Adolph ZIELENKIEWICZ	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	33348877	T/Sgt	Eugene SYMONS	MIA	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	38173842	T/Sgt	Elmer D RISCH	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	12132225	S/Sgt	Stanley G LANGEASKEY	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	33204357	S/Sgt	Aulis L BLITZ	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	7023872	Sgt	Charles W CREGGER	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	33237069	S/Sgt	George R MILLER	MIA	

Were you wounded?

When we crossed into France on the way to LUDWIGSHAVEN, I was pulling 45" trying to keep up with the leader and was having trouble ~~keeping~~ <sup>staying</sup> with him. I was not in my briefed position; I was supposed to be in number three position, high elevation, but I took over number two position. About 1155 two engines/ <sup>just</sup> stopped, evidently hit by bullets, but the stoppage was the first indication I had of attack. I was put into a spin and could never pull out of it. We were losing altitude badly. Over the interphone I ordered the crew to bail out, repeating the command several times, and I also rang the ~~bell~~ bail out bell. German fighters kept attacking us down to 8000 feet. By that time I thought that all the men had had a chance to bail out, so I told the co-pilot to go back. I checked my equipment, picked up my ~~back/back~~ escape kit and purse from behind the seat, and put on my back-pack parachute. I saw the engineer and radio man leave the ship. When the co-pilot seemed to me to be taking too much time trying to get a bag of equipment, I kicked him out. I tried to bail out, but the plane started falling almost straight down, and I could scarcely move. <sup>I hurt my leg, head, & back trying to get out & knocking around with bombs, flares, & things.</sup> I finally managed to get out; perhaps the plane threw me out. About the time that I left one of the rudders fell off. I held my jump for what I judged to be 25 seconds. Part of the plane exploded. When I reached a layer of clouds, I ~~opened~~ pulled the ripcord, and the parachute opened immediately. I saw my plane hit in an open field and burn. I heard bullets exploding for the next half hour.

I landed backward in a big ditch in a slightly wooded area and was not hurt. I gathered up my parachute, stuck it in a hole, and pulled leaves over it. I saw people running toward me, so I ran the other way about half a mile to a woods. There I took off my electric flying suit and gloves and hid them. I hid myself in a hole not far from a road through the woods to a village. I opened up my escape kit and emptied all the contents into my pocket, <sup>burying</sup> ~~buried~~ the containers.

I tried to locate myself on the silk map, but I was unable to figure out where I was. While I was examining the map, I saw a man watching me from the road. He spoke something which I thought was French but which I did not understand. Since

FORCED  
OUT OF  
POSITION

BAILED  
OUT

HID

APPROACHED  
BY FRENCH-  
MAN

he had seen me, I thought I might just as well talk to him, so I walked down. He shook hands with me. He seemed to want to know whether I <sup>wished</sup> ~~wanted~~ to be taken prisoner. From what he said I gathered that there was a German encampment in the nearby town. I indicated that I did not want to be taken prisoner, and pretended to run away. Then the man took me to <sup>a hiding place</sup> ~~his home~~ and brought me some food. I gave him a pack of cigarettes.

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

At dark the man took me to his house, and from there my journey was arranged. ~~I wore GI shoes~~ they proved extremely useful for me.

Compiled by  
D E EMERSON  
1st Lt, AUS

*During it I was glad I wore GI shoes as*

Approved by  
*W. S. Holt*  
W STULL HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

Appendix B

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with an officer who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any details about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 30 December 1943+ to 29 January 1944

a. Informant was told in January by one of his helpers that the area south of BORDEAUX is practically devoid of guns. He does not have any further details.

b. Informant noticed in traveling through France that the Germans seem to be going to particular pains to be polite to the French.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-530727 1st Lt. DONALD R. HESKETH.

Unit:- 66th Bomb sqdn. (H) 44 Bomb GP (H)

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? *Used one benzadrene tablet*
- b. If not, why? *others not necessary*
- 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). —

*AFTERNOON AFTER bailing out to  
STAY AWAKE while lying in woods.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). —

Matches. *yes, FOR SMOKING*

Adhesive tape. —

Chewing gum. —

Water bottle. —

Compass. —

Sewing kit. *on clothes recieved from civilians.*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *buried 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?

*IT should be easier to open - It took me a long time  
& much effort to open*2. PURSE

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

Compass. —

File (hacksaw). —

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *2000 FRANCS FRENCH*

How did you spend the money?

*ON WINE AND CIGARETTES IN FRANCE'S BLACK MARKET.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *gave them to civilians.*

Compass. " " " "

File (hacksaw). *MISSING FROM KIT.*

Surplus currency. *1300 FR.*

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

*yes. left them Home.*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *yes*

If so, how many? *9*

b. Did you use them?

*NO good - wrong size, wrong color*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes. in the U.S.A.*

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*At Chertingdon, Eng. and by spm. All intelligence*

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

*OFFICERS: VLT TEMPLE & some others. (inspiration)*  
*yes. from our group.*

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

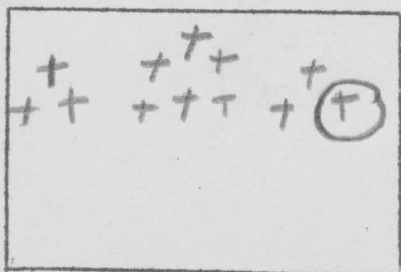
*Once in Organization, follow orders implicitly.*

*Approaching former.*

*Lectures on getting down to Pyrenees.*

NAME Donald J. Heslett RANK 1st Lt ASN 0-530727 REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SQ 66 B GROUP 44 B A/C NO. 548 Letter 1 Load 5600 Date 12-30-43



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

*Did not bomb target.*

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

*Attack by group of 4 F.W.190's directly out of the sun. they followed up with attacks till*

Markings:

Our Tactics:

*we were down to 8000'.*

*simple evasive action*

Our Fighter Support:

*Not picked up yet or at least not seen.*

Flak

Time

Place

Quality

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

*NONE*

Armament:

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

*NO E Attacks*

For  
Stencil

Please leave  
note attached  
when ret to  
Erselford