

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 443
EVASION IN France

5 April 44
2 March 44
(Date)

Reuben H ECKHARDT, 2d Lt O-677460

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

549 Bomb Sq, 385 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: LUDWISHAFEN

MIA: 30 December 1943

Arrived in UK:

2 March 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

				Official Disposition NARRATOR	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-677460	2d Lt	Reuben H ECKHARDT		
CO-PILOT	Charles M ERICHSEN	2d Lt	O-746320	MIA	
NAVIGATOR	Kingsley E SUMMER	2d Lt	O-688128	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	John S HAY	2d Lt	O-679196	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	Leroy H ACRIDGE	S/Sgt	17060257	P/W	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	hur 19109225	S/Sgt	Arthur K ENDERS	B&E #414	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	Robert L CHUMRINE	Sgt	15110181	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	James A LILES	Sgt	19160685	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	Rowland P BURCH	Sgt	39120992	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	Floyd W MONTGOMERY	Sgt	33417912	MIA	

Were you wounded?

Eckhardt.

Before reaching the target our number three engine went out. The propellor was windmilling and ~~after we had slowed to 130 miles an hour at 16000 feet it broke away, and tearing a large hole in the nose.~~ We were losing 200 feet a minute. The order to bale out was given ^{while} ~~when~~ the aircraft ^{was in} ~~went~~ into a slow spin to the right, ~~due to the controls being lost through enemy action.~~

7 PLANE IN SPIN
[The copilot had left his seat when I buckled on ~~my~~ ^{every one was gone but} ~~my~~ chute and by the time I got to the escape door ^{and me.} only the navigator was there. We had difficulty getting out because of air pressure caused by the spin. Finally I got part of my body into the slipstream and ~~left~~ it pull me out.

[My chute opened around 2000 feet while I was still spinning. The plane, ^{and} ~~above me when my chute opened,~~ spun by me ~~to~~ crashed and exploded before I hit the ground. I counted six or seven ^{in the air} ~~chutes at different altitudes~~ and saw an FW 190 circle on of them.

LANDS IN VILLAGE
I came down on a dead end street in a ~~small~~ small village and was surrounded at once by a crowd of Frenchmen. My chute had swung me into a wall + ^{stunning} ~~dazing~~ me temporarily. Someone was pouring hot coffee and cognac down my throat when I heard some shouting, and all the French scattered. I started to run with my chute and harness, but a woman motioned me to throw it into a yard.

I ran on then into the fields and hid behind a stone wall where I took off my flying equipment ^{and} ~~which I dragged~~ ^{it} with me under a large piece of scrap tin.

GETS IMMEDIATE AID
Some time later when the excitement had died down a Frenchman brought some food, took away my equipment and motioned me to remain there. Half an hour from then another Frenchman took me ^{and gave me} into a barn to put on an old raincoat before ^{taking} ~~riding~~ me on his bicycle to a house in the country. During ~~a~~ hour spent there I

changed into civilian clothes.

My helper and I rode about fifteen kilometers to another farmhouse. I was asked what plans I had made and whether or not I ~~am~~ wanted to become a prisoner of war. I said that I ~~knew of nothing to do but start walking to SPAIN and would appreciate any advice about getting there.~~ My friends said they knew a man who might help me and would have him visit me that night.

This man arrived after dark, asked me a few questions to assure himself of my identity, and took me to his home where I stayed a week in complete seclusion. During this week I was put in touch with Sgt ENDERS of my crew and our journey from here was arranged.

APPENDIX B:

Same as Sgt Enders, E & E Report no. 414.

Cancelled

Capt White

SECRET

APPENDIX "D". TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-6774'60 2nd Lt. Reuben H. Eckhardt

Unit:- 385 Bomb Gr., 549 Sqd.

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

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.

No

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

while crossing mountains

Milk (tube).

No

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

while crossing mountains

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

No

Matches.

No

Adhesive tape.

No

Chewing gum.

while crossing mountains

Water bottle.

while crossing mountains

Compass.

while crossing mountains

Sewing kit.

sew on buttons

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

No

e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

Destroyed in Spain

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?

Label items

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse? *No*

State color of stripes and letters.

If NOT, State why not.

Kit only contained 9 purses, distributed to other crew members

b. Did you use the purse?

No

always leave this out, j.w.

*mine
lost on previous mission, p.d. 9/2*

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

~~Maps. Which ones?~~

~~Compass.~~

~~File (hacksaw).~~

~~Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.~~

~~How did you spend the money?~~

~~Received 1000fr. from Engineer + 500fr. from French ^{helpers} organization, changed to ^{Spanish} currency~~

d. How did you dispose of:-

~~Maps.~~

~~Compass.~~

~~File (hacksaw).~~

~~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~~ ^{2 diff. 3 each}

If so, how many?

~~Photo issued too large~~

b. Did you use them?

~~No. Image too large.~~

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

~~Great Ashfield December 1943, Intelligence Officer, S-2.~~

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 escapees?

~~No.~~

~~I was taken care of immediately~~

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

E & E REPORT NO. 443
EVASION IN

March 2, 1944
(Date)

Reuben H. Eckhardt, 2d Lt. 0-677460
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Ludwigs haven

549th 385 Bomb
(Squadron) (Group)

MIA: 30 Dec
Arrived in UK:

March 2, 1944

Mission:

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Official
Disposition

Narrators
Disposition

PILOT Reuben H. Eckhardt

CO-PILOT

Erickson (shot down with 9c - think dead when left)

NAVIGATOR Kingsley E. Sumner (out of ship; seen to Bo)

BOMBARDIER John S. Hay ? not in when 3 Bo's

RADIO OPERATOR Leroy H. Herdige - wounded in Bo when Sumner left

TOP TURRET GUNNER Arthur K. Enders

BALL TURRET GUNNER Robert L. Crumrine

WAIST GUNNER James A. Lives

WAIST GUNNER Rowland P. Burch

TAIL GUNNER Floyd W. Montgomery

Were you wounded?

No

It said 3 P/W's - one shot parachuting -
3 days after downed another crew member got in safe hands -
2 bodies in a/c done were welded. ~~Set x AG Rm. x x x x x x x x x x~~ AG Rm.
KNOWN INFORMATION: Lt Erickson shot by pilot
AG REPORT: to be dead in a/c. Sumner seen to Bo.
HEARSAY INFORMATION: Two bodies found in a/c. open
Three P/Ws. One body with chute

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

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) Reuben H. Eckhardt Signed Reuben H. Eckhardt
Rank 2d Lt. A.S.N. 0-677460 Date 2-19-43
Unit 385 Gp. Witness Don. W. Smith
Col-G.S.C.

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) Reuben H. Eckhardt
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-677460
Unit 385 Bomb Gp. 549 Sqd

Signed Reuben H. Eckhardt
Dated March 6, 1944
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

Before target 13-3 out - oil leaked out - eng not fthrd - prop ran free -
behind fuselage - being 200 ft min - no air ops - prop weaving - slowed to 130 -
16,000 ft - prop hit nose of G/C - big hole - B/N went out of nose - cog out of seat -
and 14,000 TB split 2 ft at 5' - hit burst hit G/C - think Rem - Eng yelled -
20 mm hit next to log - like side glass - G/C spintor - didn't kick it out -
GFC switched on - order to BO - open bomb bay & emergency button to enter the

IFF - I dropped down & rapped on chute - Nat escape door - fell out -

had difficulty getting out - had to move - G/C in spin - chute upside down - fell clean

and fell first - oxygen fed me out - in body spin - fell chute gth - around
2,000 - G/C hit me in spin - saw G/C crash & explode - saw about

6 or 7 chutes - (7 or 8) - saw 190 circle chute - chutes at diff. alt. -

fell in village on dead end street - stone wall - 1/2 crowd gathered - woman with
coffee cup - & one with cognac - dazed - 30-40 people - Truchman yelled - people

scattered - threw chute & harness into churchyard - Tr. at old lake care of - I ran

now ftd - stone wall - hid - off MW - hot water - cold under piece of tin - Truchman bit

food later - old with sty - another Truchman took away eggplant - here 1/2 hr - Truchman

the me into barn - off ftd gth - left in barn - old meat - intnd me to follow him &

get on motorcycle - man took me to his house - late in apt - stayed 1/2 hr - more Tr. clothes

left hld at here - on motorcycle - 15 kms - had - old lady - food - lady 620 yr

old boy - Eng sp - asked plans - rd Spain - asked if world is hell - no - sd about

11 men who came - M. Julien Boyesen, coalminer, th me to his house - carried to

his house - rose - stayed 30 dec - 7 Jan - son living here - escaped from Germany

was the English Lt. & was of German

Sister of major of Paris came to see me - of Eng - fixed I.C. - Fr. major the
picture of home Eng - wrote it down - Gals of etc & plans -
belonged to came - Gt of gatus mostly personal but some military -
2 or 3 men came in one night - gatus about 1/2 - one man of army stated
1/2 had 6 men each 1/2 carrying one dead man - The 1st Major (Humbert) running
show from - gave letter to mail to son in Algeria (Fr. Navy) - Letter time in at hospital -
Ender's stayed one night with me - & he left next day - Major took me to
Spiders here - guide the us to Toulouse -

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.
Reuben H. Eckhardt, 2d Lt. O-677460
2. Decorations.
None
3. Unit or Squadron.
549 Sgl.
4. Division (Army) or Group.
385 Gp.
5. Date of Birth.
March 13, 1916
6. Length of Service.
1 yr. 11 mo.
7. Private Address.
608 St. Marys St., Fredericksburg, Texas
8. Job as civilian.
Accountant
9. From what field did you take off?
Great Ashfield
10. Take off time.
0800
11. Date and target.
December 30, 1943 Ludwigs haven
12. Where did you land?
Fresnicourt, FRANCE
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?
Yes, Plane crashed & burned
14. What was your position in aircraft?
Pilot
15. Were you wounded?
No
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much?
No
17. Do you speak French? Spanish?
No No
18. Did you have Identity Papers?
Yes French
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?
Yes. Madrid - American & British and Gibraltar to British,
No written report.
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. Madrid - February 18, 1944
22. Date of arrival in Spain.
January 16, 1944
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
February 19, 1944
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
Gibraltar, March 2, 1944 by air
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
2 March 1944 LYNHAM —

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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.,.....)

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

1. Complete description of everything that happened.
in plane before jump.
2. Description of jump and landing.
3. Description of what you did with your equipment.
4. Tell story of experiences up to time you met the
person who put you in contact with organization.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU
AT ANY TIME.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

5. How you crossed Pyrenees (General Location)
6. Your experiences in Spain.

Suggestions for others.

If there is some helpful incident that happened
after you were picked up, do not mention it until it
has been discussed with M.I.S. Interrogator.

Richard R Nelson

RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC