

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 495
EVASION IN

(Date)

Viola, Isadore C Sgt 15071058
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Bordeaux

33rd Bomb Sq 99 Bomb Gp.
(Squadron) (Group)
9th mission

MIA: Jan 5, 1944

Arrived in UK:

March 20, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT Glenn B. Johnson. 1st Lt.	Returned	
CO-PILOT Ralph K. Patton 2nd Lt.	" " "	
NAVIGATOR M. L. Church 2nd Lt.	" " "	
BOMBARDIER Jack McGough 2nd Lt.	" " "	
RADIO OPERATOR K. O. Blye T/sgt.	" " "	
TOP TURRET GUNNER Ralph Hall T/sgt.		Was member of fishing party that cracked up
BALL TURRET GUNNER J. L. Stubblefield s/sgt.		
WAIST GUNNER Isadore C. Viola. s/sgt.	Returned	
WAIST GUNNER W. A. Monson. s/sgt.		
TAIL GUNNER C. V. Coleman s/sgt.		

Were you wounded?

Small wound on my left ankle & right leg.

Mine
0730 II
BTG saw
did not

~~When the tail came off to A/P~~
after leaving the target our st
stabilizer was hit by flak which made
it by late. A 4/w came in. We
shot down five. I got one & did
Sgt Monson. The BTG got one too
so did to TTG & the bombardier.
The attack put a 20 mm burst in
the left stabilizer. We were still with
the formation when the attack ended but
the hole in the stabilizer caused a lot
of vibration at the tail wheel section
& the pilot had to leave formation, we were
staggering. We thought we ~~were~~
were on our way to England when
a fighter came in at 0530. The pilot
went into evasive action and the
tail broke off. I was already weary
my chute - best type. When the
tail broke I was tossed ^{& thrown} back
toward the break & the RWO landed
on my feet. I wiggled free of him

and the wind drew me out of the sleep.
We were at about 13000 ft. I pulled the rip-
cord as soon as I was clear of the sleep.
There was a jerk as the chute opened
my harness was snug ^{and I was not to be}
~~The harness~~ ^{did} hit my face as I ^{was} ^{falling} ^{through} ^{the} ^{air} ^{and} ^I ^{was} ^{not} ^{to} ^{be} ^{hurt}
There was no falling sensation. ^{in F/W}
came by. I thought ~~it~~ ^{it} would shoot
& make believe to be wounded.

I landed in ~~back~~ of a peasants
backyard. I took off my chute &
had intended to hide it, but the farmer
was there already & motioned me to
give it to him. He then made
eating motions, and I followed him
to his house. I told him that I was
an American & asked if anyone could
speak English but he never understood
me. In a half hour they told me that
a comrade was coming so
I waited a bit. King came over.
I also tried talking to him but made
no headway. They started to say
allemands so we took off

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 supersedes 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.

GERTIFICATE

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) Isadore C. Viola

Signed Isadore C. Viola

Rank Sgt A. S. N. 15071058

Dated 3/22/44

Unit 331st Bomb Sq 94th Bomb Grp

Witness Isadore C. Viola

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ S05 2-44/2M/22472

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. *Isadore C. Viola. S/Sgt. 15071058*
2. Decorations.
3. Unit or Squadron. *331st Bomb Sq.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *94th Bomb Gr.*
5. Date of Birth. *3/3/14*
6. Length of Service. *2 years + 4 month.*
7. Private Address. *740 Main Street, Follansbee, W. Va.*
8. Job as civilian. *Beer Distributor.*
9. From what field did you take off? *Rotham, Bury St. Edmon.*
10. Take off time. *7 A.M.*
11. Date and target. *Jan 5, 1944 Bordeaux*
12. Where did you land? *Kergist - Melou.*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?
14. What was your position in aircraft? *left Waste Gunner*
15. Were you wounded? *Yes.*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *2,000 F.*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish?
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes*
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? *NO.*
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. *Sea*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *3/20/44*

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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

495

DATE: 21 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, KENNETH O. BLYE, T/Sgt., AC, ASN 31230643

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

ISADORE C. VIOLA, S/Sgt., AC, ASN 15071058

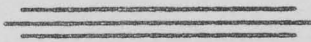
prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

Kenneth O. Blye

Isadore C. Viola
ISADORE C. VIOLA

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as ISADORE C. VIOLA, S/Sgt., AC, ASN 15071058 (331 Bomb Squadron - 94 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. MARANDA

W.F.M.
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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