

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.

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) MERLIN K BURGESS

Signed

Rank

CAPT.

A. S. N.

0404086

Dated

JUNE 15, 1944

Unit

391ST B.G.

575 BS.

Witness

RESTRICTED

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

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 756
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Merlin K BURGESS, Sapt, O-404086

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
2 (No of Missions)

575 Bomb Squadron, 391 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: MARSHALLING YARDS

Date Missing in Action: 27 April 1944

Date Arrived in UK: 15 June 44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

PILOT	O-731780	Capt	William S ALDRIDGE	MIA
CO-PILOT	O-404086	Capt	Merlin K BURGESS	NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	}	O-741340	2d Lt Emil M HANTON	E&E #818
BOMBARDIER				
RADIO OPERATOR	12098426	Cpl	Sterl E SAYLOR	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	NONE			
MIDDLE TURRET GUNNER	32143301	Sgt	John F LAYCOCK	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	NONE			
WAIST GUNNER	NONE			
TAIL GUNNER	12057415	S/Sgt	Andre F KREFT	MIA

Were you wounded?

A direct hit by flak set our right engine on fire. After I had checked the sergeants out, Capt Aldridge opened the bomb bay and I jumped ~~out~~ at 8000 feet followed by Lt Hanton. Just as I pulled the ripcord I heard an explosion above me but I was knocked out immediately after ~~that~~ that by a leg strap I had forgotten to fasten. I came to around 300 feet and counted four chutes, one landing in a tree below me.

I hit on a low-roofed barn and slid to the ground where I was removing my chute when Lt Hanton ran up to me. We were going in search of the others, but two Frenchmen joined us in the fields and we followed them into the woods after they had warned us ~~that~~ many Germans were in the area. ~~We saw a small group of people gathered around something in the distance that may have been a crew member. It was not safe to investigate.~~

Our French friends left us well hidden in the brush with no indication that they would return or help us any further. We sat there the rest of day ^{the} and left ~~and examined our aids boxes and purses before leaving the wood at dusk. We knew ~~we~~ we were in the vicinity of DIEPPE and ~~we~~ must use extreme caution in getting out of the defense zone. We travelled S, ^{by} using our maps and compasses. It was a moonlight night, so we walked through fields and woods until 0300 hours, when we found a secondary road. ^{however,} ~~But~~ soon, hearing a patrol ahead of us, we had to get back in the fields. We knocked on the door of one house, but the people wouldn't talk to us, and ~~finding an empty shack,~~ we spent the rest of the night there ^{in an empty shack.}~~

~~The next morning~~ Late ^{next} in the morning we stopped at another house. The people were frightened and gave us food, but while we were eating they got in a buggy and drove off. We left immediately.

We came to a railroad and, judging from our maps that it would lead us to ROUEN, we followed it for some distance, skirting small villages. We went to a house on the edge of a large village some time in the afternoon and though we

Forgets to fasten leg straps

Warned to hide in woods

IN DEFENSE ZONE

Avoid small village

got no ~~back~~ food the people pointed out where the Germans were concentrated, ~~in~~
~~in this area~~. We cut S and SE, staying away from the roads, and ran into
a small group of woodcutters- the friendl~~est~~ people we had met ~~yet~~. They shared
their food and swapped some old clothing for ^{parts} some of our uniforms. The rest of
the day we walked on small roads, asking occasionally at houses for food but
never getting it. Our feet were badly blistered that night when we crawled
into ~~xxxx~~ a barn. / Stencil 1

The next m~~orning~~ we walked toward ~~STXXXXXXXXXX~~ ST SAENS and stumbled into
a large German camp, but fortunately we saw the sentry first and turned away
before we were noticed. At a farmhouse we were given food, clean socks, and
bandages for our blisters. We were at this house only a few minutes because
the people were nervous, but in spite of this they were very friendly. Our
confidence had increased enough now so that we walked on a main highway and felt
little nervousness when passing Germans.

We followed this main highway ~~xxxx~~ to the edge of a ~~small~~ large town
where we saw German soldiers checking papers of all the people on the road.
We turned ~~intoxxxx~~ off the highway into a wood and asked a Frenchman ~~we-~~
~~met on a path~~ for food. He took us to his house where we waited for a man to
visit us. We were questioned carefully and the rest of our journey was
arranged.

APPendix B:

a. Evader heard that Resistance group in ROUEN area had a school where they
taught sabotage tactics. The main activity of this group had been the
destruction of locomotives.

Appendix D:

1. I used the Horlicks tablets and chocolate bar while hiding in the woods.
Used benzadrine tablets when crossing PYRENEES. Used adhesive tape for blisters.
Used compass, water bottle and sewing kit constantly.
2. I carried a RED purse and used the maps, compass and money.
- ~~3. I had no extra aids ~~to~~ for evasion.~~
3. I carried passport photos and used one.
4. I was lectured on evasion in the States and at Group. The lectures were
valuable, e.g., concerning where to look for help and how to travel through
the countryside.

BLISTERED
FEET

GAIN.
Confidence

ROAD
Control

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

BURGESS, MERLIN R. CAPT 0404086 JUNE 15, 1944
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
391ST BG, 575 BS, #156
(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

APRIL 26, 1944 1700 HOURS DIEPPE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

RIGHT ENGINE AND WING ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

UNKNOWN

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

UNKNOWN

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

UNKNOWN - SAW 4 PARACHUTES

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

UNKNOWN

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

YES BOMBARDIER

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

NO

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

NO

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

NO

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

UNKNOWN EXCEPT FOR
BOMBARDIER, WHO EVAPED WITH SOURCE

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-404086 CAPT. M.T. BURGESS

Unit:- 391ST B.G. 575 B.S.

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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

USED WHILE HIDING IN WOODS FOR TWO WEEKS

- GAVE ENGLISH SOLDIER JUST BEFORE CROSSING FRONTIER

- DID NOT USE

BUILT FIRES WHILE IN WOODS

USED ON FEET WHILE WALKING

USED IN WOODS

USED CONSTANTLY

|| ||

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

NO

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse?
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not. *RED PURSE*
- b. Did you use the purse? *YES*
(over)

using maps, compass and money —

no extra aids —

I carried passport photos & used them —

I was lectured on evasion & escape
in the States & at Group

The lectures were val concern when
to look for help & how to travel ~~there~~

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

JUNE 15, 1944
(Date)

BURGESS, MERLIN K. CAPT 0404086 TARGET:

(Name) (Rank) (ACR)

2 (No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: APRIL 26, 1944

575 B.S. 39/ST B.G.

(Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 15, 1944

NUMBER OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

PILOT Aldrich
ALEXANDER, CAPT.

CORPSECT BURGESS, M.K. CAPT.

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER HANTON, EMIL K 2ND LT

RADIO OPERATOR SAYLOR, STERLE. CPU-

TOP TURRET GUNNER

MIDDLE TURRET GUNNER LAYCOCK, JOHN F SGT

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

KREFT, ANDRE S/SGT

} Evaded together

Were you wounded?

SLIGHTLY BURNED ON BACK OF ~~NECK~~
FEW FLAK SPLINTERS

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) MERLIN K. BURGESS Signed Merlin K. Burgess
 Rank CPT A.S.N. 0404086 Date June 12, 1944
 Unit 391st B.I.G. Witness H. W. A. D.

MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN CONSULATE
GIBRALTAR

HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
U. S. Mil. Lia. Off.

Burgess

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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.,.....)

AIRFIELDS AND INTERIOR DEFENSES
SEEN BUT DO NOT REMEMBER LOCATION

about 21 may - the name - guy to Brittany to catch boat -
girl who told this: 5'3", heavy mustache, dr. brownish red - 125 lbs
pleasant - not pretty - "Francoise"
said used to take boys to Brittany

1. knew very much activity - had school to teach using dynamite to put -
occasionally blowing up locomotives -

over Dieppe - flak - ditch on right side - fire - went to rear & saw they jumping
out - Aldrich opened bunker - jumped & Santo flung me out - leg straps
not fastened - leg straps knocked me out - saw four chutes
below when at 300 ft - 8000 ft - had heard say above just
a falling chute - saw chute land in tree - landed on lawn - slid
off - off chute - Hunter came up - we went to look for others - 2
Frenchmen came up to us - told us Perry road - we were led into
woods - saw gap in distance - might have been one of boys - stayed woods till dark -
dense woods - sat in brush - 48+ people - ate some - at dusk started walking -
wanted to go S - knew near Dieppe - went out of defense zone - maps &
compasses - complete night - walked till 0400 hrs - stayed in woods 6 hrs -
about 0300 hit road - flunked - had patrol - didn't stay with 'em - that
they didn't help - knocked at house - didn't open door - in an
after sleeping in shack - stopped at house - told them hungry -
got food - people scared - gave us food & they got in buggy and drove off -
we took off S - foggy morning - to another house - followed RR to Rouen -
shaking brown - noon - large village - hsc - no help - pulled out where
Germans were along roads - cut S to SE - no roads - noon -
wood cutters - changed clothes - 2 boys & men - 2 boys went off & brought
old clothes back - ate with men - had 2 GI's - then in roads all that day -
asked for food - didn't get it - at night - feet blistered - found barn - next
am - went over to St Seine - walked into a D camp - circled it E

took main highway from St Sain into Rouen - stopped at junkie - food
rocks - bandages - walked on main highway - plenty of Germans - before
ROUEN - saw Isery stopping people on road - we went into wood -
saw identifier - took us into her - clean sheets & food - several people
came in to check our identity - asked about US & UK - no org - two boys
were with magni - all nets taken to a wood - ten miles in cycles -
netting of big bag - Paul - history in wds 2 days - ^{with us} Australian
2/5 Sgt Wallace, Nugh m/tol far - found us - lived in small hut in orchard -
stayed in woods all day - there 2 weeks - Capt in the Army, led of magni to
St. 7th Army - Ned Daugherty Sgt can tell all about the 7th. Capt to
The magni here - he lived with them several months in chateau
on hill - a Russian escapee & German deserter here also - Mrs
Auvilly (ear in fr) came to take us to PARIS - contact was Capt -
4 of us - in PARIS - went ~~around~~ about 12 June - to M. Bouille -
McClain there a month before - 4 of us in her there a week
24 St. Germain - then to ^{more} policemen's house, Sebastapol st. -
not with org yet - Leo & Genevieve (sister) well known to British -
suitsman John McEwen (RAF) - Hanton & Daugherty to and the
place & not seen til afternoon - stayed week - Burgundy
Org. Ten men left on 24th May - Pierre ^{18/19} may be boy name
who guided us to ~~St~~ Toulouse to Marie?
Continue with Thacker -

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. *MERLIN R BURGESS, CAPT
040486*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *575 BS.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *391ST B.G.*
5. Date of Birth. *OCT. 9, 1916*
6. Length of Service. *5 YEARS*
7. Private Address. *BOX 248 ROOSEVELT, UTAH*
8. Job as civilian. *STUDENT*
9. From what field did you take off? *MATCHING GREEN*
10. Take off time. *1600*
11. Date and target. *APRIL 26, 1944 MARSHALLING YARDS*
12. Where did you land? *NEAR DIEPPE*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *UNKNOWN*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *COPLOT*
15. Were you wounded? *SLIGHTLY*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *ALL*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *NO*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *ONE DOG TAG*
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?
20. *YES AT GIBRALTER JUNE 12, 1944. NO WRITTEN REPORT*
Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *TO SECURITY OFFICER AT GIBRALTER*
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *AT ALHAMA, SPAIN JUNE 10, 1944*
22. Date of arrival in Spain. *MAY 27, 1944*
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *JUNE 12, 1944*
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *JUNE 14, 1944*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *BRISTOL JUNE 15, 1944*

CONFIDENTIAL

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

756

DATE: 16 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, EDWARD A. DAUGHERTY, Capt., AC, O-905062

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

MERLIN K. BURGESS, Capt., AC, O-404086

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.

Merlin K. Burgess

Edward A. Daugherty

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



=====
The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as MERLIN K. BURGESS, Capt., AC, O-404086 (575 Bomb Squadron - 391 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

J. F. Carroll
J. F. CARROLL, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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