T/Sgt Robert Behrens
1020 AAF Basetint RS #2
Sector "C" Dept 3
Miami Beach, Fla.

Ed 770

Air Mail

MIAMI BEACH FLA.
AUG 10
1-PM
1944



File in his folder

S/Sgt Tom Cheatham 20832913

Hqs. Co. Hqs Command Etousa

A.P.O. 887

% P.M. New York City

New York.



August 15, 1944

Dear Heathan,

I just got word today that the money you were sending me arrived at home, so I'm writing to let you know that it arrived and to thank you for taking care of it for me.

Every time I see somthing in the newsreels about the "buzz-bombs" I think about my my short stay at number 63 and hope that you guys are making out all right.

Thanks again for helping me out.

Sincerely

Robert Behrens

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

JUNE 24, 1944
(Date)

BEHRENS, R.O. T/SGT 36435582
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
12 (No of Missions)

754TH 458TH
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: MANNHEIM

Date Missing in Action: APRIL 25, 1944

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 24, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know

PILOT J.H. COMBS - CAPTURED - FRENCH WITNESS

CO-PILOT C.W. ROOF - IN SPAIN - WAS TOLD THIS HERE

NAVIGATOR E.M. HOAG - IN U.K. - ARRIVED WITH ME

BOMBARDIER C.G. BIEBER - DEAD - NAVIGATOR SAW HIM.

RADIO OPERATOR R.O. BEHRENS

TOP TURRET GUNNER A.B. McKEON - IN U.K. - ARRIVED WITH ME

BALL TURRET GUNNER MILLER - DEAD - FRENCH SOURCES

WAIST GUNNER H.L. TAMBOER - DEAD - " "

WAIST GUNNER JOE WAGNER - HAD ARRIVED IN TOULOUSE WHEN LAST HEARD OF - FRENCH UNDERGROUND

TAIL GUNNER R.O. McCARTHY - DEAD - FRENCH SOURCE

Were you wounded? NO

Belvoir

Downie — of Wrecker's crew

Sgt - Richard Morris — shot down near bay as Wrecker

Wagner

Bombed & fighter attacking — left A/C burning - then saw Cap leaving seat - grabbed chute - opened Bombay doors - wing on catwalk - then left - TTG & Cap left 1st & I think — at 22,000 - but into effect open don't at 11,000 ft. delayed jump til 7 or 8,000 ft - saw 2 chutes on ground - and then in distance — down in open fld - near woods - farmers in flds plowing - bad country - gathered chute & into woods - farmer came in after me — he hid chute - asked if hungry - what after food - asked if Ger — ok stay there - - hid in brush - 5 mins later he back - started walking along woods edge - across fld into woods - hid again - 1000 hrs - at 14:00 hrs - he back — he was dressed up - ok back at 2000 HRS — just laid there - 3 young boys then woods - no contact - man back with another man - clothing - changed - had note from 3 Gens staying at a place - telling me to go along — we walked 5 to cycles - out thru flds - my 1st help left - with man to VRAIN - to see a schlitcher - met Sgt Krecker & Sgt Downie & Sgt Morris — this 25th & 28th Lt. HOAG good us - in hand M. Jean VIDAL, 3 degrees - 10, 64 schlitcher, in this town - he had no contacts - would try to wait til invasion — he knew M. Paubert, RR man, BLESNE, had some contact - no away out - got TCo then Paubert - auto plans fld there - other people in town feeding food: Mme Rapinat & dgtr - about 5 May Sgt Joe Wagner good us - had here til 22 May — everything being shown thru Paubert - gave him N-R-AS N — a butcher from ORCONTE - Belgians — just before we left this all avenues of escape closed & alerted to world — On 20 May Morris Downie & Wagner — last had of in Toulouse - left with butcher for VITRY — On 22 May — Krecker & Hoag & I left with butcher in

trib for Vitry – on Sunday decided we needn't take – two women told us gendarmes were patrolling, & not to go to Vitry – went with them to home in Thieblemont-Faremont – all nite at their hse – next a.m. to trib to Vitry to armenia hse – & hse an orphan man – been with Eng in Cefuca – was on schlitzes – yng girl who took us to Paris – another man at hse – stayed an hr – tickets there – McKeon & Lt Roof at the hse – M & R fixed to liaison man to station & we fixed girl – yng boy there & he fixed tickets to Paris – in Paris we fixed boy & R the fixed girl – in st missed contact with man – saw yng man came – was a romp one – 2 fixed men & M & R fixed girl & or metro – to apt – empty – but schlitzes & friend of hers came –

18, dk brn hair, 5'8"
blonde, good looking, gusta little English, 5'6", medium bld –
35, brown hair, 5'7", 130 lbs, heavy bld. ——

moved at nite, chf came, had gone to France in Feb, been in USA, college in Va or Sc; tall, good looking, black hair – ck NR, ASN – Hp & crew – pld with – 9th clothes –

went to RR station with 45 yr old man, fixed schlitzes – he taking me to me to yng fellow who had led me to schlitzes – he taking me to Bordeaux – he tall, thin, tortoise rimmed glasses – strt black hair – looked post chinese – to station – Roof + McKeon showed up – Roof + 2 girl lost in crowd but fixed & fixed guide onto train – old always to Bordeaux —— little short man met us – no car M & R & 2 into car – taken to Mr Coyne's hse, 14 Rue Servandoni – Coynes 4th, 23, spoke Eng – stayed 5 days – lady, reg nurse, spoke Eng came to cure for Roof's ankle – related to Coynes – Roof stayed behind – ankle bad – day after Pentecost left with little short fellow & fixed in train – Thomas 1/0 was with them –

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

BEHRENS R.O. (Name) T/SGT (Rank) 36435582 (ASN) JUNE 24, 1944 (Date)

458th B.G. 754th B.S. (Unit) #769

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
APRIL 25, 1944 - 0930 - PONTHIEN, FRANCE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? ELEVATOR CONTROLS OUT AND ONE RUDDER SHOT OFF.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 15,000 FT

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
NO, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GATHERED LATER

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
NAVIGATOR, BOMBARDIER, PILOT, COPILOT, RADIO OP., TOP TURRET GUNNER & WAIST GUNNER - BOMBARDIERS CHUTE DID NOT OPEN FULLY
Did the plane explode on striking the ground? YES

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? YES, SEVERAL DAYS LATER

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. YES, SAW TWO, AND IN TIME WAS GIVEN INFORMATION OF ALL OTHERS BY NAME

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.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion? FOUR DEAD (BY FRENCH SOURCE) ONE CAPTURED (FRENCH SOURCE) ~~THREE~~ TWO IN U.K. (ARRIVED WITH THEM) ONE IN SPAIN (TOLD HERE) ONE POSSIBLY IN SPAIN (HAD ARRIVED IN TOULOUSE)

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- Belcher

Unit:-

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. CROSSING FRONTIER

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. " "

Milk (tube). " "

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier). NOT USED

Matches. " "

Adhesive tape. CROSSING FRONTIER

Chewing gum. " "

Water bottle. " "

Compass. NOT USED

Sewing kit. AT VARIOUS TIMES IN FRANCE

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? NO

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? LEFT IT IN FRANCE

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? YES
State color of stripes and letters. RED
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? NOT USED

Compass. " "

File (hacksaw). " "

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FENCH 1200 FR.
How did you spend the money? FOR FOOD

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. TAKEN BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SPAIN

Compass. SAME AS ABOVE

File (hacksaw). LOST

Surplus currency. SENT TO U.K. FROM GIBRALTAR

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? YES SIX
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them? USED ONE

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. AT HORSHAM ST. FAITH PERIODICALLY
BY INTELLIGENCE & EVADERS

b. Did you find the lectures of value? IN MY CASE - NO

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers? NO

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) ROBERT O BEHRENS Signed Robert O Behrens

Rank T/SGT A.S.N. 36435582 Date JUNE 19, 1944

Unit 458th BOMB GROUP Witness H. W. Forster

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

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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) ROBERT O. BEHRENS — Signed Robert O Behrens

Rank T/SGT — A. S. N. 36435682 — Dated JUNE 24, 1944

Unit 458th B.G. 754th B.S. — Witness

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

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. ROBERT OTTO BEHRENS T/SGT 36435582
2. Decorations. AIR-MEDAL
3. Unit or Squadron. 754TH B. SQDN
4. Division (Army) or Group. 458TH B. GRP
5. Date of Birth. AUG 11, 1922
6. Length of Service. 1 7/12
7. Private Address. PATRICKSBURG, IND
8. Job as civilian. AIRCRAFT METAL WORKER
9. From what field did you take off? HORSHAM - ST. FAITH
10. Take off time. 0630
11. Date and target. APRIL 25, 1944 - MANNHIEM
12. Where did you land? IN FRANCE 1Km S of PONTHION near VITRY
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? DO NOT KNOW
14. What was your position in aircraft? RADIO OP.
15. Were you wounded? NO
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, DOGTAGS AND FENCH 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?
QUESTIONED IN GIBRALTAR
HAVE GIVEN 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? ~~NO~~ IN ALHAMA SPAIN JUNE 17
IN GIB, JUNE 20
22. Date of arrival in Spain. JUNE 3
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. JUNE 19
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. GIBRALTAR - JUNE 23 - BY AIR
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. LONDON JUNE 24

CONFIDENTIAL

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

770

DATE: 25 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, ROBERT H. HINCKLEY, JR., Capt., AC, O-24889

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

ROBERT O. BEHRENS, T/Sgt., AC, 36435582

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory. (J & P)

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

Robert H. Hinckley Jr.

Robert O. Behrens

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as ROBERT O. BEHRENS, T/Sgt., AC, 36435582 (754 Bomb Squadron - 458 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory. (J & P)

John E. Parish

JOHN E. PARISH, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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