McKoon #771

When I left that - Behrens opnd Railway doors - was still there - got on chut - Cap helped - out at 18000 - Cap & P there ready to go - delyd going to about 2000 or 3000 yds off - gnd - Hid up - saw chute above & near - heard gnd & had slip learning & ammo guys off - hided hand in swing - 3 left chute under beach - threw leaves over - saw 2 chutes landing further away - stkd to look for it - rode between us - went towds one chute - saw other two landing further away - saw one man hopping - Lt Roof - helped hide chute - he had landed & broke small bone in ankle - did hobble - got into wds - ½ hr later put splint on foot - cut straps from MW to bind sticks - this shows cut off chin harness - mine in a/c - Doz came into bush & behind guy in boy - wldnt help - did'nt yes to go where to get help - stkd - Roof didnt walk - find hiding place in wds - that night I went out thing for help - didnt find use - we near road - styd that nite - next a.m. went for help - wlkd - road near - fraid of it - went back way we entered wd - saw 3 men plowing - sneaked up on them - watched - poorly dressed - dagoes - approached them - explnd - Am & enquired towds - only ½ mile from a/c - this only few 100 yds from where landed - they guys - 16, 18, 25 - talked it over - one NW across flds - I hid down in bush - decided to trust them - saw man coming back alone - he went to Roof with man - food in bag - Roof knew few wds in French - man did coming back later in day - wldnt hide us - came back later however - this time brot new man - food - we to stay there that nite - rest of day visited by many Fr - next a.m. fed again - yng girl & boy came with note - 4 names of dead

members of crew - "Bieber clayton, Harvey & Sgt Richard" - with
dictionary ad me struck by a/c - McCarthy chute caught in wing - Lt Hoag ad
hided by a/c - bieber chute strung out read to go pop when hit -
Girl asked for photos - gave her two - she gave me to Fr boy -
tld to say mem in Uthy or St Dizier making false papers - ad
he wld visit us - Frenchmen ran up & they tld us to hide & all ran
away - nothing hapd - then visited by many - ~~none came that~~
~~nite~~ - had to stay in woods that nite - were visited by 3 old Frenchmen in off
who tld us this - then man came in excl yelling soldiers of America -
was Doctor from Sermaize - tked at Roof's foot - ad he knew Lt Hoag
the was safe - was going to send him to camp of Fr. parachutists to me too (maquis?) -
wld hav Roof himself - spoke good Eng - tld me of 4 men killed - tld me
McCarthy caught in wing - tld me one or two capt'd - that nite he
ad some one in car to pick me up - sold Frenchmen hung around - everyone
for 50 miles and knew we there - clothes wet during day -
(Can) at 9 p.m. - kept ODs under clothes - gave apparent to other -
man spoke Eng - ad had been to liaison off with RAF - 3 men in car - then
to village (PONTHION?) - room in barn - slept here this nite - next a.m. Fr
officer back with small tk — to Sermaize - Roof left here with Dr Fritsch
& 2 taken to base few 100 yds away — M. Mootz, wealthy - here on 28th Apr -
stayed til May 2nd - visited by Doctor - had 4 Sgts Behrens, Wagner & Hoag -
Lt Hoag only Lt. Couldn't capt'd — had IC given me — Roof moved to base of man
named (Soubday?) - late on nite of 21st Drs son came to say Germ next
day — taken to Drs base, met Roof — by car to Vitry with Dr — met Sgt
Behrens Lt Hoag & Sgt Krecker — Fr liaison off came to base - gave us some
instructions —

In Paris went to base to saw Patrick, spoke American, tld me Sgt Wagner
in Toulouse —

Large Capt base - old lady - many wife & sister & brother in law -

With Belgian rest of way ——

CONFIDENTIAL

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

DATE: 25 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

771

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

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

ANTHONY B. MC KEON, S/Sgt., AC, 33580391

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

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

Robert H. Hinckley Jr.

Anthony B. McKeon

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as ANTHONY B. MC KEON, S/Sgt., AC, 33580391 (754 Bomb Squadron - 458 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory. (S & P)

John E. Parish

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

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 [illegible] without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, ~~Asst.~~ 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) ANTHONY B. McKEON Signed Anthony B. McKeon

Rank S/Sgt A.S.N. 33580391 Date JUNE 19, 1944

Unit 458th BOMB. GRP. Witness Horace W. Forster

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

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

June 24, 1944
(Date)

McKEON, A.B. S/Sgt. 33580391
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
11 (No of Missions)

754th 458th BOMB.
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: MANNHEIM
Date Missing in Action: 4/25/44
Date Arrived in UK: 6/24/44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know

shot head KIA in guarding of him

PILOT COMBS, J.H. + Captured - information from French.
CO-PILOT ROOF, C.W. + Spain.
NAVIGATOR HOAG, E.M. - U.K.
BOMBARDIER BIEBER, C.G. - Dead - information from French.
RADIO OPERATOR BEHRENS, R.O - U.K.
TOP TURRET GUNNER McKEON, A.B. - U.K.
TAIL TURRET GUNNER MILLER - Dead - information from French.
WAIST GUNNER T/Sgt Joseph WAGNER - Toulouse - " " "
WAIST GUNNER TAMBOER, H.L. - Dead - " " "
TAIL GUNNER McCARTHY, R.O. - Dead - " " "

Lt. Hoag saw Bieber

"are you wounded?

NO

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

McKEON, ANTHONY B. (Name) S/Sgt. (Rank) 33580391 (ASN) 6/24/44 (Date)

458th Bomb Sqdn. (Unit) #771

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. 4/25 09:00
Plane crashed near village of Bontion. I landed about ½ mile away.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.
Was it on fire, etc?
Controls were shot out.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 18,000 ft.

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

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
all but waist & ball gunners. 1 chute opened too late & I was
Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Caught on wing.

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

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. The dead were identified 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? I believe information on first page to be correct. Information was brought to me from more than one source & I have seen all but those who were reported killed or captured.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 33580391 T/Sgt. Anthony B. McKeon

Unit:- 458th Bomb Grp.

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 mountains

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. while hiding in woods

Milk (tube). while hiding in woods

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). Crossing mountains

Halazone tablets (water purifier). while hiding in woods

Matches. while hiding in a house

Adhesive tape. gave it to doctor

Chewing gum. gave it to Frenchman

Water bottle. while hiding in woods

Compass. no

Sewing kit. no

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? water bottle

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? Frenchmen hid 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?

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse? yes
State color of stripes and letters. red stripes
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? showing north-eastern France & Southern France

Compass. —

File (hacksaw). —

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. 500 Fr. to guide & How did you spend the money? 500 to eat in Spain

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Spanish Army took them

Compass. " " " "

File (hacksaw). lost in woods

Surplus currency. taken at Gibraltar

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? yes
If so, how many? 9

b. Did you use them? yes

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? yes
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

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 escapers? be sure to carry all escape equipment & try to know where you are all during mission so if you are shot down you'll at least know what country you're in.

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) ANTHONY B. McKEON
Signed Anthony B. McKeon

Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 33580391
Dated June 24, 1944

Unit 458th Bomb. Grp., 754th Sqdn.
Witness Richard H. Kucker

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. ANTHONY B. McKEON S/Sgt 33580391
2. Decorations. AIR MEDAL
3. Unit or Squadron. 754th Bomb. Sqdn.
4. Division (Army) or Group. 458th Bomb grp.
5. Date of Birth. April 17, 1923
6. Length of Service. 1 year 6 months
7. Private Address. 1492 N. Wilton St., Phila., Pa.
8. Job as civilian. Paint Sprayer
9. From what field did you take off? Horsham St. Faith
10. Take off time. approx. - 06:30
11. Date and target. april 25, Mannheim
12. Where did you land? Near Vitry-Le-Francois
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? ?
14. What was your position in aircraft? Top Turret
15. Were you wounded? no
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? yes, 500 Fr.
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? no
18. Did you have Identity Papers? dog tags & later given French papers.
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 Madrid by Attache on 6/18, & in Gibraltar by British intelligence on 6/20
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?
In Alabama 6/17 & Gibraltar 6/20
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. by air from base at Gibraltar on 6/23
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. 6/24 in Hamden