

2214

VERVOR HERBERT 5/SGT 35362644 549th 384 BPR 8th AAF
Name Rank & Serial No. Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: OCT. 14 1943 30 OR 35 K. S. WEST OF VERDUN
Date & Approximate location.

Experiences after being shot down: LANDED IN THE HANDS OF THE
FRENCH PEOPLE, STAYED 4 OR 5 DAYS THEN THEY
GOT US IN CONTACT WITH THE ORGANIZATION
AND THEY GOT US ACROSS THE SWISS
BORDER.

Status: Escapee - Evader - Internee.

Date of Escape: OCT. 27-1943

Date of Arrival at MAAF: ANNECY - SEPT. 13 - 1944

Physical Condition: GOOD

REMARKS: NO FREEDOMS AND TREATED MORE
LIKE INTERNEES. MILITARY PERSONAL ARE
THE TROUBLE CIVILIAN PERSONAL TREATED
US GOOD.

Home Address: RR. 2 Box 145 JASONVILLE INDIANA

Departed MAAF Hq.: —

2214

S/Sgt Herbert E. Yeryar "C" Report .

My story is the same as that of Lt. Eugene W. Connor, E&E No. ____.

RB Field
1st Inf.

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) HERYAR HERBERT E.
Rank 5/SGT. A. S. N. 35362644
Unit 54750 384 AB GR.

Signed Herbert E. Geryar
Dated 20-8-44
Witness P. Field
1/2/44

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *54759 384 B.G.R. 35362644*

Unit:- *54759 384 B.G.R.*

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. *USED FOR SHORT TIME*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *MADE HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE*

Milk (tube). *BAR AND MILK*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *NO*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *YES.*

Matches. *YES IN WOODS*

Adhesive tape. *YES BANDAGE*

Chewing gum. *YES.*

Water bottle. *NO UNUSABLE*

Compass. *YES, TO SET A HEADING*

Sewing kit. *YES TO REPAIR CLOTHING.*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *YES WATER BOTTLE*

- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

BURIED 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?

*THE MAP SHOULD BE MORE DETAIL ON SMALL TOWNS
WATER BOTTLE SHOULD HAVE A SMALL HARD TOP FOR A STOPPER*

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? *LARGE SCALE MAP.*

Compass, *YES*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *GAVE IT TO OUR GUIDES.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *GAVE TO FRENCH*

Compass. *GAVE TO FRENCH*

File (hacksaw). *BURIED.*

Surplus currency.

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

YES

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many? *YES THREE*

b. Did you use them? *YES*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES*

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

IN THE STATES IN PHASE TRAINING

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?

*KEEP THERE MOUTH CLOSED ONLY
WHEN NECESSARY TO TALK AND KEEP EYES
OPEN*

TOP SECRET

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

APPENDIX C, TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land? JUMPED
2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed?
RHANBLUSN RHANBLUSM FRANCE
3. How long was it before you got help?
IN JUST A FEW MINUTES
4. List the people who helped you and the location (city, town, or village) in which you were with them, including addresses where possible. After the name or description of each person with whom you stayed give the approximate dates between which you were with him.

NAMES OF THE PEOPLE I DO NOT REMEMBER
THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT LET US PUT ANY
THING DOWN ON PAPER. IF THE GERMANS
TOOK US PRISONER THEY WOULD SHOT
THE PEOPLE, SO THE FRENCH SAID.

NEAR RHANBLUSM FOR 8 DAYS THEN
MOVED TO VERDUN AND STAYED THERE
FOR 5 DAYS AND PROCEEDED FROM
THERE TO SWITZERLAND

5. List other American and British evaders whom you saw during your evasion and state where you saw them.

S/Sgt William E. MARTIN
S/Sgt SYKIA
T/Sgt E. HOOD
S/Sgt JAMES FESTA
I SAW THEM AT VERDUN

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

VER YAR H.E. - 5/Sgt. 35362644
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FOUR (No. of missions)

547th Sq 384th BGR
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: SCHWIEINFURT

Date mission in action: 10-6-43

Date arrived in UK: 8-30-43

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT	2nd Lt. Kopf William E. - DEAD	FRENCH people TOLD US OF THESE MEN THAT WERE DEAD.
CO-PILOT	2nd Lt. SCOTT ALFRED W. - DEAD	
NAVIGATOR	2nd Lt. MASSEY TOSCHA - DEAD	
BOMBARDIER	2nd Lt. CONNOR EUGENE W. U.K.	
RADIO OPERATOR	5/Sgt VER YAR HERBERT U.K.	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	5/Sgt MAURITHO HUGH U.K.	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	5/Sgt SMITH CLYDE - DEAD	
WAIST GUNNER	5/Sgt PERRONI ANTHONY P. DEAD	
WAIST GUNNER	5/Sgt BERNARD LEROY - DEAD - MACHINE GUNNER IN HIS CHUTE	
TAIL GUNNER	Sgt BUDDEMYRE ELTON - DEAD	

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: DEC. 29-1921

Private Address: JASONVILLE INDIANA RR.2 BOX 145

Length of Service: 26 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: TRUCK DRIVER

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

GRAFTON, UNDER WOOD — 11:30

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

YES

Were you wounded? Give details.

YES, IN FACE AND LEG 20mm. exploded in Radio Room

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

YES 1900 FRENCH FRACS.

Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

NO

Did you have identity papers?

YES

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

YES, IN FRANCE COL. HULL.

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

YES, AMERICAN ATTACHE IN BERN SWISS, WHEN WE GOT IN THE COUNTRY - FRANCE AFTER WE LEFT SWISS,

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

*YES, BERN AMERICAN ATTACHE
FRANCE COL. HULL.*

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

NO

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *ANNECY SEPT 19-1943*

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

YERYAR HE. 5/SGT. 36362644
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

9-19-44
(Date)

54750. 384 B. B. R.
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT
CO-PILOT
NAVIGATOR
BOMBARDIER
RADIO OPERATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER
BALL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER

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

16:30 HRS OCT 16, 1943 RHUMBLUM.

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

DO NOT KNOW, PLANE WAS ON FIRE AND EXPLODED.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

20,000 FEET.

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

PILOT BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN HIT.

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

LT. E.W. CONNOR, SGT MAURITHO, SGT BERNARD, SGT YERYAR
SGT BERNARD MACHING GUNNED IN HIS PARACHUTE

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

NO EXPLODED IN THE AIR

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

YES, LT. CONNOR SGT MAURITHO

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

FRENCH PEOPLE TOLD US OF THE DEAD IN THE
PLANE AND OF SGT BERNARD. HE DIED IN VILLAGE

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

NO

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by 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?

SEVEN DEAD, INFORMATION RECEIVED
FROM FRENCH.

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.,.....)

GAVE ALL INFORMATION AS TO ROUTES
AND HELP RECEIVED TO MILITARY ATTACKS
IN BERN SWITZERLAND