

S E C R E T

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

TARGET: SCHWIENFURT

FRANCIS R. SYLVIA S/SGT 31289498  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 10/14/44

Date arrived in UK: 10/14/44

14 (No. of missions)  
547 384  
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what  
happened to each man  
and how you know.

PILOT DONALD P. OGILVIE - P.W. - RED-CROSS-REPORT.  
CO-PILOT KILMER. - P.W. - " " "  
NAVIGATOR Childs - RICH - RETURNED - U.K. - REPORTED HERE - M.I.S.  
BOMBARDIER WILSON - DEAD - FRENCH - PEASANTS.  
RADIO OPERATOR JAMES MURRAY:  
TOP TURRET GUNNER EMMETT HOOD.  
BALL TURRET GUNNER JAMES MCKEON/  
WAIST GUNNER WILLIAM MARTIN  
WAIST GUNNER FRANCIS R. SYLVIA  
TAIL GUNNER LOUIS RATKIEWICZ

ESCAPED TO SWITZER  
SWITZERLAND.

Decorations: AIR MEDAL 1 CLUSTER

Date of Birth: OCT. 7-1923

Private Address: 2 PRINCETON ST. NEWPORT. RHODE ISLAND.

Length of Service: 20 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: MACHINIST. APPRENTICE

From what field did you take off? Take off time. 384 BG. KETTERING. TIME?

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? (IN PLANE CRASH) ?

Were you wounded? Give details. YES. SHRAPNEL IN CHIN AND THIGHS.

INJURED STOMACH (ACUTE-NEUROSIS - HOSPITALIZED IN SWITZERLAND) CAUSE —  
CHUTE-HARNESS-TOO-LARGE — REGULAR HARNESS GIVEN TO ANOTHER GUNNER  
Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? BY NCO. IN LOCKER-ROOM.  
YES. 2000 FR. FRENCH.

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?  
YES A LITTLE

Did you have identity papers?  
DOG-TAGS - ESCAPE-KITS.

(over)

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

YES. AMERICAN M.A. SWITZERLAND

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

YES. A.M.A. SUISSE

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

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

NO. ? 23017 43  
Arrived  
1st + Switzerland 24 Oct

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

OCT. 4. / 44 ANNENY - AIR.

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

FRANCIS R. SYLVIA S/SGT. 31289498

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

10/5/44

(Date)

5472 384 BG

(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. OCT. 14/48 - 5 P.M.  
BAR-LE-DUC - FRANCE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
ON FIRE. WHOLE RIGHT WING - BOMB-BAY - ETC.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21,000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
SOME WOUNDED. NO KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICERS.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
ALL GUNNERS. PILOT-CO-PILOT-NAVIGATOR. YES.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? ?

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

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 crew members were identified by name or otherwise.  
FRENCH REPORTED ONE MAN DEAD IN PLANE, TWO INJURED BUT SAFE IN GOOD HANDS.

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?

RECEIVED. REPORT. (OFFICIAL) ON ALL MEMBERS

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.,.....)



# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 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) FRANCIS R. SYLVIA  
Rank 3/SGT A. S. N. 31289498  
Unit 547 S 384 BG

Signed Francis R. Sylvia  
Dated 10/5/44  
Witness L. J. Mearns Capt AWS

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

# RESTRICTED

16.10.44

2425  
S/Sgt Francis R SYLVIA, 31289498, 547/384 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 14.10.43  
Intrvd 5.10.44

On 14 Oct 1943

Sgt SYLVIA landed somewhere N of BAR-Le-DUC, he knows not where, and immediately joined Sgt MARTIN (E&E ) of his crew, with whom he was from that time on.

With the other members of his crew he entered Switzerland and went to Porrentruy for a night. From there he went to Bern for about a month, Klosters until April, and Glion until he left with seven others on a train for British escaped P/W. With him were STALNAKER, WARD, KEEPER, WIGGINS, ORNATEK, ROSKEY, AND HEATH.

DEE

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 31289498 3/SGT FRANCIS R. SYLVIA

Unit:- 8TH A.F 547 I 384 BCG

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". USED MONEY-MAPS GUM.

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.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? HORLICK TABLETS.

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? hid it deserted barn.

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?

Tabacco - iodine

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse? yes

State color of stripes and letters.

If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse?

(over)



c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones? *both - souvenir to FRENCH*

Compass,

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *ALL - FRENCH*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *gave to FRENCH.*

Compass.

*SWISS. TOOK*

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

*no.*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many? *one.*

*yes.*

b. Did you use them? *yes.*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*yes at base.*

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?



5, 1912

Landed near Mor + in - chr  
with him from that time on.

Parenting over it

Been 6 months

Klosters - until April

Glim until left

7. 1/2 as only train with Br. esquires.

Stelmah, Ward, Keker, Wiggins, Armstrong,  
Ruskey, Horth,