

**RESTRICTED**

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**The Adjutant General's Office**  
**Washington**

AG 388.6 (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 388.6 (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) EVERETT LYNN CHILDS Signed Everett L Childs  
Rank 2ND LT A. S. N. O-800168 Dated 25 Aug 1944  
Unit 384TH BOMB GRP 540 BOMB SQDN Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SOS

/224-72

**RESTRICTED**

2d Lt Everett Lynn Childs, 0800168, 540/384 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 14 Oct 43  
Intrvd 25 Aug 1944 et seq

Returning from Schweinfurt on 14 Oct 43 CHILDS was blown out of the ship after the Phad given the order to bail out, which he had not heard, and only the CoP was left in the plane. He opened too high and landed W of BEAUZEE, N of PRETZ, both N of BAR Le DUC ( ). After hiding for 15 minutes or half an hour he walked down the road to Pretz; someone took him to the woods to hide and gave him food. Then he decided that he was too close to the place where he had come down and walked on until 2200 when he covered himself with leaves and tried to sleep. About dawn he saw a man going through the woods and got him over. The man took him to a village, presumably SOMMAISNE. This man was EUGENE, 45, who has a brother at 5129 Carmen Ave, Chicago, Illinois. He had a girl 20, engaged to a P/W, a girl about 12, and a baby.

On 17 Oct a fairly well dressed man, about 35, 180, 5'10", asked whether he could ride a bicycle. With him was a younger and taller fellow. The farmer had instructed Childs to state that he could not ride a bicycle.

On 18 Oct a different man came in a car and took him to LOUPPY le Chateau (Meuse) where he stayed with Robert PETIT, 25, who had lived in Paris and been a clothes merchant. He was married. He got a doctor to take care of Childs' leg.

Childs was taken to visit Sgt Henry BERRY, 23, married four times, flying Forts, possibly an RO. He was staying with a man who was an invalid and lived with his sister and wife. The town was possibly Lisle en Barrois.

About 22 Oct a man with a car gave him 500 francs and took him to Revigny where he met Ogilvie and Kilmer, P and CoP. He stayed with Louis, about 29, who showed him a brief case with Childs' name on it. Louis said that he had taken care of 11 Russian P/W. An old couple brought food.

He met a woman named MARIE, Louis' mistress, who had a boy 8 and a girl 13 and whose husband was a P/W. Another doctor came to treat him. A power

2 the Americans in the last war.  
who owned a power plant near St Diziers. He had been an interpreter for  
plant man seemed to be the chief in Revigny, name possibly August. He met  
me Dubois, who had sheltered Ogilvie; the latter had been moved from her  
chateau because there was danger that the Germans were going to stay there.  
About 25 or 26 Oct the same man in the car took Childs to BAVIHC URT and  
put him with Sgt Hall (E&E?) of Lt Harmeson's crew, who was staying with a  
postman about 45, whose name may be LOUIS G---. The latter has a son 22,  
one who is a school teacher, and one 14 who is very small for his age. He  
has a daughter 14 and a wife who is a very large woman. Every night he  
visited Hall's crew member, Sgt Jolly, who had a broken leg. The doctor who  
was treating Jolly got I/P for all three men.

Robert L'Huerre became interested in the men. He was about 5'7", dark  
hair, fairly light complexion, chief in the Post Office in Bar le Duc, father  
lived at 25 College Street, French Guiana; he himself had been in the  
French air force and had been shot down. Robert said that they would go to  
Bar le Duc to get a train and then go to Rheims to fly out.

About noon 9 Nov Robert came in a car with another man, said that the  
Germans were coming, and took the three men about 5 km, possibly to Hargevill  
where they stayed with a young buttermaker about 25, blond wife baby girl.  
From there Robert took them by truck to Bar le Duc. Howell and Jolly sep-  
arated from Childs and stayed with a woman about 40, PAULETTE, about 20, who  
had been in the Hitler Youth and has a boy friend in Germany, last name  
possibly STROUD. Childs went with a girl M--, about 22, an office worker  
or typist, parents about 55-60, lived in an apartment house near a canal.  
PAULETTE and a boy friend visited. HENRY and Berry were also in the city.  
Two other Americans were supposed to be around.

On 13 Nov he took a 1600 train with Robert, Jolly, Howell. Berry and  
Henry were to go the the next station to join the train. They got on with  
two others and a blond woman about 35 at a station which might have been  
Mussey. They went to Vitry le Francois and the group separated, Henry, Berry  
, and Childs going with Robert and getting off before Rheims. A man with

a car and a younger man, a big Belgian whom they saw several times afterward, took them to Verzenay where the three stayed with a champagne maker, 27, wife named Raymonde ab ut 25. After two weeks there they were still waiting for the plane. About 27 Nov the big Belgian and some others took the three to Rheims to an apartment house where a woman about 39 was keeping an Englishman, an American TG and N shot down in Aug. The Englishman was paralyzed from alcohol poisoning. This woman took them to 706 Rue Romain, the butcher shop of Marcel Tavernier, a heavy set man weighing about 220 lbs, German speaking, about 29, son and daughter 8 or 9, wife named Jeanette. They visited a man who worked for the butcher, 55, been a champion bicyclist, wife about 35, son 22. Here they met a Canadian, CHARLES, (Lt LaFleur), 35<sup>2</sup>38, dark eyes, heavy eyebrows, 5'6", spoke English with a Brooklyn accent, said that he wanted to get in the FBI after the war, had been taken P/W four times by the Germans, said more about going back by plane. The people upstairs had been to the US; they had a little girl about 14, Cecile. About 5 Dec came an Englishman who had been shot down about a month and had sprained his ankle in landing, walked with a limp. The Canadian was going to take Childs and him the Fismes to catch a plane. The Butcher's wife took them to the station and they went to Fismes with a girl about 24 who operated a radio for a man who had his hq in Rheims. In Fismes they went to a baker, an old soldier who had been gassed in the last war, with three daughters, a cousin, and son Charles working in the bakery. The P and CoP were with the baker's daughters one of whom worked in a bank; the other <sup>Simone</sup> <sup>Lucienne</sup> was married, took in sewing, and had husband who was P/W. Ogilvie and Kilmer had stayed in Rheims with a woman whose husband did sabotage work. This man was caught by the Germans. She had apparently been careless and talked. Childs saw Ogilvie and Kilmer every day. C

Charles said something about a Lancaster landing and taking out 10 Englishmen. Childs went to a garage where the radio was hidden. Nice and Knopp, E&E, were staying with a farmer at a house not far away. Childs met

a boy Lucien, about 17, and Lucienne who was the girl friend of Charles of the bakery shop. To make the thing more confusing, one of the baker's daughters was named Lucienne. Childs believes that Lucien was the RO whom Nice mentioned was arrested.

On 29 Dec a richman about 55 who lived in the town was arrested and beaten up by the Gestapo. It seemed that he was in an organization which received materials by parachute and that on 27 Dec stuff had been dropped on his farm. He was in a resistance organization to which belonged one of the sisters sheltering Ogilvie and Kilmer. These two were moved to the butcher shop, and Childs went to Nice and Knopp. The Gestapo searched this place, and the Americans narrowly escaped. The night of 31 Dec the three started walking SW, sleeping the first night in a barn, the next with a family who sheltered them. The third day they went through Chateau Thierry and stopped for the night near Montmirail after making a chance contact. They met a young man about 22 who claimed to be a resistance chief, but he suspected them of being Gestapo. He let them sleep in a barn but made them go on the next day because his group was going to be busy blowing up bridges near the next day. The men spent the fourth night les Essarts NW of SEZANNE where they were taken in by a Belgian woman about 50. The fifth day they went through Sezanne going in the general direction of Bar le Duc. They stopped at a farm, near L'Hermitage, but a woman chased them away, fearing Gestapo. They avoided pere Champenoise and approached the house of a gendarme, Charles Forney, where the frightened family took them in. They were taken to a polish family at a farm past the chateau to the E. They were visited by an actress from the chateau and were told that a priest was sending a radio message on them. These people also took care of German deserters, it appeared. They were given some story about an English col who had put on German uniform and was somehow going to get them out by plane. (Cf E&E, Sgt Nice) ~~Childs/believes~~

A man named Henrik was at the place where Childs was staying, and Jon, son about 22, daughter about 25, had had a baby by a German soldier. After

a few days a grand chef de resistance came, lived in Vertus, name possibly Boulazer, a protestant, six children, later arrested, beaten up, but did not talk. *Henrik was supposed to have been a Polish RO at Lille for a resistance group, up to Dec.*

About 25 Jan Childs was moved to an N, William Rendall, from Wilson, NY, flying Libs, shot down about 29 Dec, walked five days to get to this section.

(Most likely: 1st Lt William A Rendall, crew of Lt Heskett et al, E&E,)

He had been shot down near Soissons. His information on the rest of the crew was not very accurate, for he thought the TTG P/W (Risch,) and the RO with Symons French resistance in March, the rest supposedly killed. Childs was then at MORAINS le PETIT with Marcel GOUCHET (questionable spelling), since taken by the Germans because someone denounced him for bearing arms. Nice and Knopp stayed elsewhere at a large farm with a general of the last war who had two daughters, 20 and 16.

After about five days someone in Fere Champenoise was arrested by the Gestapo apparently some Jewish person, because the Germans were then having a drive on the Jews. Somehow the general seemed to be connected with the difficulties, and it was considered dangerous to have the airmen in the section so about 31 Jan all were moved. Nice and Knopp were to go to a farm near Champagnéul. Rendall and Childs went to Pocancy and stayed with an old man, Rene, 70-80, used to be a chauffeur, and his wife. There they stayed for Feb.

About 2 March somebody was supposed to be coming to the chateau where they were and it was necessary to move. They went to Mme MAUCLIN, who had been extremely helpful to them and insisted that they stay with her. Her husband was a P/W; she had a daughter eight years old, and also a little girl ~~about~~ of her brother's.

They met ALBERT, who worked for Mme Mauclin and who seemed to be the chef de village. Another man who was helpful drove a milt truck, the one truck in the village. They stayed until about 25 <sup>March</sup> hearing talk both of a plane and of a trip to Spain. On 25 March they started out on the plane hob going to

ETOGES S of EPERNAY with Roger, 5'8", thin face, 180, 29, claimed to know the young resistance chief at Montmirail, had been a German prisoner and escaped four times before finally making it to France, had been held for three months in the S of France on some charge and his mind was a little affected.

They stayed with Roger's mother and his sister's little five year old girl.

After a week it seemed that the plane plans had fallen through. About 31 March they walked to Chateau Charmoyne where lived a baron whose servants talked him into sheltering the Americans. Somehow he had a son LEVONET (questionable spelling) who was supposed to be a comte. For several days the men stayed with a guard for the woods. They stayed around until about 9 April. By that time, since no plane had arrived, they began to be waiting for the invasion. They were visited by their friends from POCANCY. The servants of the baron were JACQUES the butler, 22, home from work in Germany, who was engaged to the baron's nurse, Suzanne, and Marianne, the cook.

Something came up about collaborators arriving, so the men moved to Serge TARTAS, about 27, wounded in this war, brother in law of ROGER. They slept in a cabin in the woods for a couple of weeks, built a cabin for themselves, and moved to it just before the Germans searched the other one. They were connected with a resistance group which seemed to receive materials by parachute. They stayed in the woods until about 1 May.

After the English raid on Mery le Camp (?), an Englishman joined them, VAN ---, 19, married in March, F/Sgt, on his 29th raid, the last mission of his tour, later caught in uniform, and therefore presumably P/W. About 15 April the chef of CONGY joined them, hiding out from arrest by the Germans. This chef had a messenger who was a mailman at a town where Rendall had been, presumably Villes En Eux. A Canadian S/Bdr, 25, George Hill, 14 victories, was picked up in the vicinity and was staying where the chef was. He came for a couple of days, and then he and CHILDS went to Congy for a couple of days while Rendall went to a place where he had been, trying to get a bicycle. They had then decided to go with some young fellows to a resistance group farther S and

they seem to have got as far as Coulommiers, the whole group. Then Rendall whose name seems to be CYMER came in with an Englishman together with the chef's mailman, and the latter said that the Germans had captured the chef at Chalons. Rendall and the Englishman decided to wait for the plane which was still much talked about; Hill and Childs decided to leave for the Spanish frontier. About 0400 on 10 May the latter two started walking S through Choisy en B, Beton Bazoches, St Hilliers, W of Provins, toward Bray. They stayed with a shepherd who warned them against trying large houses. On 11 May they went through Bray, Compigny, and Pont sur Yonne, to St Martin W of Sens, le Mesures, and on to Subligny where they entrained for Montargis. They went to Chateau Renard and stopped at a farmhouse S of the town with a man who had been P/W for three years in the last war. They walked to la Chapelle, Mogent, and les Choux, slept in the woods, and went to Nevoy and Gien, Poillx, to Argent by autobus, and on to Bourges, staying S of the city at a place which may have be Laxenay. The next day they bought a ticket to Limoges and rode to Montlucon. There a priest gave them chocolate, and they took the express train for Toulouse which went by way of Limoges, thinking that they could ride through without a ticket. After they had passed Limoges they overheard a Frenchman talking about Pyrenees guides, so they got in touch with him and he agreed to help them and go over with them. They had then to fool the controller on the matter of tickets, so the two evaders got in the latrine. Childs had I/P and Hill did not. When the controller came around, Childs gave in his ticket to Limoges and paid the extra fare. The controller did not realize that two were in the latrine, so all went well. By another ruse they got Hill out of the station at Toulouse and ate dinner and went to a barber shop. The guide made some contact and learned that they could not move on that day, so they stayed at a hotel. This guide spoke Spanish and English, had been born in S America, had a French mother, and may have been named Yves.

The next day they went by train to Pau, went to see some <sup>Mme</sup> at the last house on some street near the railway, and learned that she would not take the guide's word. The evaders made the admitted mistake of not talking to the woman



themselves and declaring their identity. The guide could not find any place to stay and decided to go back to Toulouse. On the train the Feldpolizei ran the routine check of I/P. The man became suspicious of the three men together and did not trust their papers nor their story about being Polish workers. The German searched Hill and found his maps and part of his escape kit; Hill then admitted his identity. The German had not made up his mind about the other two, but since all three seemed to be together he was taking no chances. Finally Childs admitted that he was an American. At Toulouse the three were taken to a jail, the evaders staying together, the S American separately. They were given no food at all. The next morning the three men who had been controlling the train took the three prisoners to Bayonne. On the way they were questioned for personal data which Childs gave only after Hill said that it was all right. He refused to give sq and gp. Childs had no dog tags, having given them up at the second place at which he stayed, and the Germans made a bit of an annoying point about it without any real threats. They had asked Hill for his tags and he said that they could take them but that he would not give them. The S American seemed to have been caught with a postcard to the Congy helpers which he had been supposed to mail for Childs at Pau.

They got off the train at Bayonne, Biarritz, or Anglet, and went to an old hotel like building.. Hill was questioned first and came back looking scared; He was still wearing RAF blue trousers. he said later that he had been pushed around. He warned Childs not to let them scare him and suggested they might try some rough house. The interrogator spoke good English and wanted to find out where Childs landed and where he had been.

On 19 May they were taken by car to the Bayonne prison. The prison regulations were signed by one Major Pietz, who seemed to be commandant. This might have been the name of the man in charge whom they saw, 6', stocky, English speaking, been in S America. He told them that they were bandits and asked them how they could prove that they were airmen. They met BOND, from Mississippi, shot down over the Pas de Calais on his fifth raid, arrested about 14 May on

the train to Bayonne or Toulouse, apparently accompanied by a Frenchman who was in the same cell with him later. The food at Bayonne was miserable and the fleas plentiful.

On 23 May Hill, Bond, and Childs were taken by train to Bordeaux and on to Paris, stopping at Tours, apparently, en route. They seemed to come into the Gare d'Orleans and were taken by car to Fresnes where the three were put in one cell in the W building. They saw some airmen brought in in uniform, one man wounded, presumably from a plane crash about 10 miles S of Paris. After being searched in the central office Childs was put in cell 414 on the fifth floor, with Lee Johnson, a N from Libs, and Jimmie Laign. About 27<sup>th</sup> 28 May one of the guards struck Johnson when he was shouting for men from New Hampshire. The guard pulled a gun when Johnson looked as if he were going to return equal measure.

In cell 415 was an American sgt shot down the previous Aug, possibly from New Jersey, who in July had already been at ~~the~~ Fresnes 100 days and had never been questioned. He had been captured with a British captain who had 2,000,000 francs and was going to Switzerland. With him was a Thunderbolt P from New York whose plane had been set on fire by FW's.

The interpreter for the doctor was blond haired, about 30, buck teeth in upper mouth, one gold tooth or one missing, about 5'7", 180 lbs, had lived in Los Angeles.

In early July Rendall and the Englishman with him were brought in, having been caught in uniform, but they received no different treatment. Hill talked to them and passed the information on to Childs.

About 29 July a blond chap from Texas was brought in; he had not been down long.

In cell 413 was a lt from Minnesota brought in about 31 May; about 2 June he was joined by a sgt from Ontario.

Since Fresnes is in allied control a description is unnecessary; one may be found in the notes. The guards were all in uniform. The food was atrocious

but it was possible to get Red Cross parcels.

There was a Sgt Steele, who looked Spanish or Mexican, who had been caught near the Swiss border with an American colonel. Apparently he had all of his souvenirs, including pictures of helpers. He was supposed to have been questioned by the Gestapo about 25 and 30 May and to have had his face slapped so hard that his lip was cut. On 3 June he was interrogated again and beaten with a stick while four men stood around with guns, holding a picture and asking him the name. About 8 June he was again questioned but not mistreated. For some reason Childs did not trust Steele.

There was a Sgt Wagner who had never been questioned and another sgt in a near by cell. He had somehow been directed to a deserted house and, apparently according to plan, had been picked up there by the Feldgendarmarie. Wagner understood German and heard one German tell another to be rough to the bastards.

An Australian N who had been in Childs cell had met a British capt who was chief of some French resistance group. He had been in prison three years and escaped. Before his escape he had been with a PFF man who had threatened with the firing squad.

Childs was never questioned at Fresne nor told why he was being held under such atrocious conditions. He did not know of anyone at Fresnes who had been threatened with being shot as a spy. One sgt was so bitten by fleas that he was sick; he was small anyway, about 5'4", but was down to about 85 lbs weight.

The morning of 10 July Childs and a number of others were lined up to go to Germany. The doctor's interpreter said that the work was over. Someone had seen the orders and said that they were going to Frankfurt. About 1030 a drunken escort in civilian clothes came, 15 guards for 21 men. The Americans were uneasy because the guards were so li uored up. They were handcuffed, Childs to Sgt Wagner, and taken by bust to the Gare du Nord and loaded in the center of a train. Some seven Americans, including Steele, were in one compartment with a guard. Childs discovered that he could slip his handcuff and let Wagner know that he was planning a break. The train went through Meaux,

Epernay, and Bar le Duc. In the darkness, sometime after midnight, while the car was asleep, Childs went from the inside to the window, which under other arrangements was already open, and dropped out when the train was not going too fast. He left the train somewhere E of Bar le Duc, possibly near Coussance aux Bois or Grimaucourt. He went in the rain to Domrey aux Bois, slept in a barn, approached a woman the next day, told his story, and was told to leave. He started out for Bar le Duc, cutting across fields. The woman ran after him to give him four raw eggs. Another farmer turned him away. He took carrots from gardens and stuffed himself with cherries, walking all day across fields and along paths in woods. That evening he approached a boy at Meligny le Petit at an old mill near the S end of town. The whole town shortly turned out to feed and equip him.

A Fort crew of 9 men had been shot down there in April and been killed. Their bodies lay on the ground for some 10 days. Two were buried without coffins, seven with. Sgt Martin from Rhode Island was one man on the crew. Some woman in the village has dog tags.

On 12 July Childs walked on, fed and equipped, past Montiers. He was taken in for the night at Osne le Val. The woman who sheltered him said that an American officer who had been shot down in Belgium walked into the town and was turned over to the Germans by the cure; because of that treachery she sheltered Childs.

On 13 July he went to Cures, was warned from Joinville, and spent the night in a barn near Ambonville, without contact.

On 14 July a farmer sheltered him near Lemonthe. The next day he spent with this man's brother, about five miles from a chateau of de Gaulle's, it seems. On 16 July the village turned out with food for his departure. That day he got to Vaudremont and spent the night without contact at some place near Mussay. On the 17 he got in with a resistance group with whom he found some F/O, Frank, a sgt on his crew, about 33, a Scot capt who was a special RO on a Lancaster, and a French Capt named ESPRAT. One Walter Charles had been

killed with this group, and Dijon comes in in some connection. A Canadian, Capt Jacques, had another resistance group up to the N. One Sgt Walsh, apparently RCAF, was there with two crew members.

Childs stayed until ~~the~~ 3 Aug in the woods N of Chatillon. There seemed to have been a parachutage about every night. Childs received battle dress and carried arms. He, Walsh, and the other two crew members, left and stumbled into another resistance group at Les Riceys. Walsh and Childs spent the night at Bagneux. On 4 Aug they went through Ervy, Nury, and Lunart, turning down help from resistance groups. On 5 Aug they reached Dillyo, where the Germans were fighting with a resistance group, and stayed in a barn near POURRAIN.

On 6 Aug they went to Diximont, Bordes, and back to a resistance hq near La grande Vallée. Some 150 men were there. They were told that some six air men had just left when the fighting began, presumably RAF, RAAF, and RCAF. They met John Davitson or Davidson, RCAF, RO2164, St Martin du Certel (Yonne), 5'4", thin, long sandy hair, spoke only a bit of English, claimed to have flown a Mosquito, had been in Italy, this his fourth crash. Childs was suspicious of him and thought him Gestapo. When two more Mosquito men joined the group, he became a Mustang pilot. They went down to Bussy and on to Brion and stayed all night with a farmer just outside of town. They were told that 150 American parachutists had been dropped to the N on a mission to Paris; the farmer claimed to have sheltered four of the men.

On 7 Aug he went to LaRoche sur Yonne and got the French to take him across. He was sheltered at a chateau to the S. They continued SW to ALLIENY and met a contact which wanted to put them with a resistance group, so they decided that they were a mission to Orleans and just had to be sent on.

On 8 Aug they went on to Charny and spent the night at Melleory, SE of Montargis. They were taken to a farm about four km E. A Dr Solomon was extremely helpful and arranged shelter for a couple of days. Dr Solomon took them to a farm which seemed to be parachutage hq for the section. Then they went to a chateau at Ouchamps SW of Montargis. Dr Solomon and his re-

sistance people were all around. They also met Emile and Maria Hedin, and Maria ~~Duchêne~~ Duschene, 1 Rue Paul Dupuy, Paris XVI, who later took him through the lanes. Three other airmen were there: F/O C Harper, RAF, F/Lt D B Mason, F/O Walton, an Australian.

About 19 Aug Maria went through the lines to Orleans and told some colonel that the ~~the/10/10/10/10/10/~~ evaders were with him, and on 20 Aug the men were taken through to Orleans. The resistance group were suspicious of Davitson, and he disappeared.

Childs went back to Ninth Air Force Hq and was sent back to England.

DEE

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

CHILDS, EVERETT L. 2NDLT 0-806168  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Aug. 23-1944  
(Date)

384TH BOMB GRP. 540TH BOMB SQDN.  
(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. 14-1943 16:25 12N OF BAR-LA-DOU, FRANCE*

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

*Complete destruction by gasoline explosion*

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

*18000 ft.*

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

*the Ball Turret Gunner*

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

*the remaining nine parachutes opened*

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

*before*

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

*pilot and co-pilot*

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.

*pilot and co-pilot were informed of the gunner by the french name and number on a grave and they in turn informed me.*

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

*tail plane and rudder in one piece*

*one wing recognizable*

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.

*no*

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

*Ball turret gunner dead (inf. french and crew members)*

*(pilot & co-pilot prisoner) inf reliable french-*

*DATE 12-31-43*

*informed approx. 5-5-44*

*other 6 members were with the french in Oct. 1943 by*

*french informers x*

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

TARGET: SWINE FORT

CHILDS, EVERETT L. 2ND LT 0-800168  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 10-14-43

(1) one (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: 9-17-43

540 384  
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT DONALD O'LIVE

CO-PILOT ROBERT

NAVIGATOR EVERETT L. CHILDS

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

*taken prisoner together in a French butcher shop at Gismes by the Gestapo on 12-31-43 information from reliable French sources x*

*Burned to death in turret informed by other crew members and French people (resistance) these six were ~~so~~ with the French resistance in October (1943) by well meaning though unreliable informants (French resistance)*

Decorations:

Date of Birth: Oct. 26, 1918

Private Address: MANCHESTER, IOWA

Length of Service: 3 yrs. 5 months

Job as Civilian: student

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

GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD 09:45

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

*equipment yes papers no*

Were you wounded? Give details.

*yes, plane exploded / cuts over and under left eye (two above and behind right ear / right wrist / gouge in right leg below knee and left knee bruised)*

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

*no*

Do you speak FRENCH? yes SPANISH? no GERMAN? no ITALIAN? no OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

*DOG TAGS from Nov. 14 (approx) <sup>43</sup> to May 18, 1944*

(over)



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

*Capt. Arnold in France*      *yes*

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

*no*

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

*no*

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

*yes in France Aug. 23-1944*      *20 M*

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *23 M*

*naval air strip, France*      *air*  
List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

*[* DONALD OGLIVE 1st Lt. Pilot  
ROBERT \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Lt. Co-pilot  
WILLIAM RENDELL 1st Lt. Nav.  
*]*

*[* Sgt. ~~Steel~~ STEEL  
*mistrusted*  
Sgt. Wagner  
S/L George Hill / Canadian /  
*]*

*Sgt. Henry - same crew (port)*  
*Sgt. Berry*

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

~~SECRET~~

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *CHILDS, EVERETT LYNN*

Unit:- *384<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GRP 540 BOMB SQDN.*

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?

b. If not, why? *no*

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. *beer bottle very useful at times when walking and it was necessary to hide, move fast, etc.*

Compass. *given by the French resistance was used to evade to German officers who attempted to question informant*

Sewing kit.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

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? *no*  
State color of stripes and letters.  
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse? *lost in explosion flying suit pocket blown off*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?  
If so, how many? 6

b. Did you use them? YES

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. Birmingham  
Sixth (1945)

b. Did you find the lectures of value? Lectures were helpful

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?  
Use good safe houses

1122

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. .... Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) EVERETT L. CHILDS

Unit 384th Bomb Gp. 540th Bomb Sq.

has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on 22 Aug 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should/~~should not~~/be re-interrogated.

*Edward P. Arnald*  
Capt & C. Major.

MA 1400

IMPORTANT.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.  
M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

1. Treatment of P.W.'s
2. Wearing of civilian clothes

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) *EVERETT*  
 Unit *3874 Bomb*  
 has been fully/parly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.(WEA) of *1940*

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should not be re-interrogated.

Major

*Edward P. Arundel*  
*Capt a.c.*  
IMPORTANT

M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW & X. DET.  
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)