

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1697

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-692259 Rank 2nd Lt
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Harold E. Ashman
Unit 384 B Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on 7 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate.
He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

John Forsyth,
Major 2/Lt, CAC
per RB

IMPORTANT:

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

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks
Street, London.

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURE/RESCUED FROM (Name of Country)... Belgium.....

For all Personnel

1. No. 0-692259 Rank 2d Lt. Name ASHMAN, Harold, E.
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 9
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 547 sq.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 384 B. GP. 6. Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc) Navigator
7. Date of Birth 3 Apr. 1921 8. Length of Service 25 Mos.
9. Peace time occupation Clerk 10. Private Address R.R. 5,
greenville, Ohio
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Photos.
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit.

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Navigator
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B. - Airborne and Parachute Troops list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT Lt. J.R. Iavin Unknown 073410 MIA
- CO-PILOT Lt. L.A. Bendon " 0693734 KIA
- NAVIGATOR Narrator
- BOMBARDIER Lt. C.L. Anthes " 0754991 KIA
- RADIO OPERATOR T/sgt T. Hollar " 1906
- TOP TURRET GUNNER T/sgt L. Brady " 37468033 MIA
- BALL TURRET GUNNER s/sgt C. Johnson " 15382635 P/W
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) s/sgt Price " 1907
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) s/sgt R. Marz " 32604556 - MIA
- TAIL GUNNER s/sgt J.W. Malone " 38387567 MIA
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17G Grafton Underwood, Eng
13 Apr. 1944
18. Where and when did you come down? 13 Apr. Near Mons, Belgium
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Civilian took them
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Attached:

- Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "D"

Disposal: Returned to UK

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 7 Sep 1944

I grade this evasion No. 5,

John Forsyth
JOHN FORSYTH
2d Lt. MCAC
Major

DISTRIBUTION:

- HQ. I.S.9WEA.....2
- 12 Army Group....2 (less C)
- 9th AF.....1 "

Brought down by flak, left wing burst in flames, threw plane vertically. The bombardier motioned me to bale out, which I did. I saw no other chutes from the plane. The people on the ground later told me that they saw only two other chutes and the plane came down in pieces. I landed in a field, people met me and took my equipment. A man took me to woods and left me there and later returned with clothes. At nightfall he took me to a house, midnight, two men came and walked me till 0500 next morning to a house where I stayed four days, then Hurren, near French border. Dr. Milivitch in Hurren, stayed 2 weeks and then told I would go to an organization in Brussels. May 2 a woman took me there, till 19 June. Then by train to Mamur, overnight, then to Beffe, 29 other evaders there, where I met Gladys.

On 19 July, 6 of us went to Porturessa, and lived in cabin in forest till 7 Aug. to camp near Bolan 9 Aug on foot. Stayed there till 5 Sept. when overrun by Americans.

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.

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) HAROLD E. ASHMAN
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. O-692259
Unit 547th SQDA. 384th GROUP

Signed Harold E. Ashman
Dated Sept. 7, 1944
Witness Charles A. Brown
1st Lt. U.A.C.

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S. 9 (WEA) PERSONNEL

Sept. 7, 1944
(Date)

ASHMAN, HAROLD E. 2nd Lt. 0-692259
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Schweinfurt 9
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: APRIL 13, 1944

Returned to UK: Sept. 7, 1944

547th Bomb. Sqdn. 384th Bomb. Gp.
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| PILOT | <u>1st Lt. J. R. LAVIN</u> | <u>UNKNOWN</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>2nd Lt. L. A. BENDON</u> | <u>"</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>2nd Lt. H. E. ASHMAN</u> | <u>EVADED</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>2nd Lt. C. L. ANTHERS</u> | <u>UNKNOWN</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>T/Sgt. E. PRICE</u> | <u>"</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>T/Sgt. T. HOLLAR</u> | <u>"</u> |
| MID TURRET GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt. L. BRADY</u> | <u>"</u> |
| WING GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt. C. JOHNSON</u> | <u>"</u> |
| WING GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt. R. MARZ</u> | <u>"</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt. J. MALONE</u> | <u>"</u> |

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

APRIL 13, 1944, NEAR MINS, BELGIUM 21 4:00 PM

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

PLANE WAS ON FIRE AND OUT OF CONTROL.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

15000ft.

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

No.

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

I DO NOT KNOW

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

I DID NOT SEE THE PLANE AFTER MY PARACHUTE OPENED

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

No.

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.

THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND TOLD ME THERE WERE ONLY 2 CHUTES AND THAT THE OTHER MAN WAS CAPTURED. I DO NOT KNOW

(over) WHO IT WAS

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?

I THINK 8 OF MY CREW ARE DEAD BECAUSE I WAS TOLD THERE WERE ONLY 2 PARACHUTES SEEN

Were you wounded?

NO

Were you in German hands?

NO

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

YES

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

NONE

What security briefing were you given?

USUAL AIR CREW BRIEFING.

What souvenirs do you still possess?

NONE

Home address. RURAL ROUTE 5, GREENVILLE, OHIO

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

NONE

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

NONE