

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 unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. 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) McMATH, JAMES G. Signed James G. McMATHRank WO1st A.S.N. 0-680668 Date Oct. 29, 1942Unit 384th Bomb Gr. Witness Grady Lewis
Major

1475

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943.

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By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulsifer
R. T. S.

RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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) McMATH, James A. Signed James A. McMATH
Rank 2ND LT ASN 0480668 Date 11-5-43
Unit 384TH Bomb Gr. Witness Ralph T. Nelson
Major A.C.

(2)

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *McMATH, JAMES GORDON*
2. Decorations.
3. Unit or Squadron. *544TH*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384TH BOMB GR*
5. Date of Birth. *AUGUST 16, 1920*
6. Length of Service. *1yr 6mo*
7. Private Address. *RFD #2 KROOM, TEXAS*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down? Were aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
*STUTTGART - SEPT 6, 1943
APPROX. 0630
GISSORS, FRANCE SEPT. 6, 1943
AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED*
9. What was your position in aircraft?
CO-PILOT
10. Were you wounded?
NO
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much?
NO
12. Do you speak French? Spanish?
NO
13. Did you have Identity Papers?
YES
14. 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?
*YES AT GIBRALTAR OCT. 30
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
NO
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
YES OCT 20 BARCELONA OCT 26 MADRID OCT 29 GIBRALTAR
17. Date of arrival in Spain.
OCT. 20, 1943
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
OCT. 20, 1943
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
AIR PORTREATH GIBRALTAR NOV. 3, 1943
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
PORTREATH NOV. 4, 1943

Left Grafton Woodhouse about 06.30 Sept 6th &
bombed Stuttgart. Fighter escort in way. Saw many fighters
most of way after escort left but no attacks on our group
up to target. We encountered flak most of way in
and as we approached target it became heavy. Circled
target and due to overcast did not bomb. We dropped
bombs on edge of Stuttgart and started for home. We
had not been hit except possibly a little flak in wings.
As we left fighters started coming in - most of attacks
5 + 2 o'clock were very high up. They shot up our wings
but no serious damage. We met our escort East of
Paris and enemy pulled off. We knew we would run
out of gas started throwing things out. When just ^{North} West
of Paris our engine cut out we had to drop out of
formation. 2 enemy fighters jumped us and followed us
down to 2000 ft. We had feathered our engine. They hit
us a great deal in waist and wings. We had crew all in
radio room. We did not fire back at all. We landed
about 4.15 pm SW of Tisors. Good landing - a big
meadow. None of incendiaries would work. Set fire to
chute in radio room later heard ammunition room
tried to set fire to hay around motor. We split up

Pilot + I started off running through wood and
met Sgt Weatherford. We walked about 4 hrs in woods
going N.E. intending to circle Paris. In woods found
escape kits took out compass & I pulled tables.
Reached edge of woods a woman came riding a bike
and turned slow path we were standing on. She saw us
and stopped. We asked her for clothes. She could not
speak English but we used V phrase sheet. She was
very friendly and left and went to farm house and brought
3 or 4 other women to see if they could help us. They took
us to a little house back of where they lived and
hid us. The man of the house came brought clothes. The
first lady said she would take us to Paris next A.M.
About 1 A.M. an old man came and moved us about 5 P. to a
little house on edge of Gisors stayed rest of night there.
The old man was first ladies father. We stayed next night and
the following morning the old man took us on train 3rd class
to Paris. Complan a suburb here we spent night in a
deserted house. Next A.M. to Paris to
FELIX. (Rena hotel wife English) A young man met us in cafe
that afternoon took our description for identity cards
then we were taken back to Gisors and hidden for
5 days. Then Felix and young man (John George) came with
papers took us to Paris to a Bakery shop and
stayed with Madam Dime and stayed there from Sept 11
to Oct 7th (Weatherford + I) Airforce stayed elsewhere.
Oct 7th given new identity cards the train to
a little town N. of Texas. There we met R.A.F. Weatherford
and J. & Guides a girl and a French flyer.
Met met by a bus that took us to another town
away from R.R. station and here we spent night
at a ladies home. Next A.M. caught train from Texas
to Toulouse then to Foix there met Caroline, R.A.F. and
Australian. There to a school teacher house and spent
night & day and left next night. Met guide outside
of Foix. Walked until 2 A.M. met another group made
up of LT. FINK about 25 yrs.
Sacra FINK

3

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. _____.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-680668 2ND LT McMATH, JAMES G.
Unit:- 384TH BOMB GR

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must 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, had you one on you?
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights", etc.
 - (i) Horlicks tablets. —
 - (ii) Chocolate —
 - (iii) Milk (tube). —
 - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue)
 - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
 - (vi) Matches. —
 - (vii) Adhesive tape.
 - (viii) Chewing gum. —
 - (ix) Water bottle.
 - (x) Compass —
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box?
BURNED
- (g) 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?
If so, state COLOR.
If NOT, state why not.
yes
- (b) Did you use the purse?
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.
 - (i) Maps. Which ones? —
 - (ii) Compass.
yes

(iii) File (hacksaw).

(iv) 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. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+)

(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?
If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE

(i) Round compass.

(ii) Stud compass.

(iii) Swinger compass.

(iv) Fly-button compass.

(v) Pencil clip compass.

(vi) Tunic button compass.

(vii) Pipe compass.

(viii) Pouch

(ix) Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions
which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them?
State how. IDENTITY CARDS

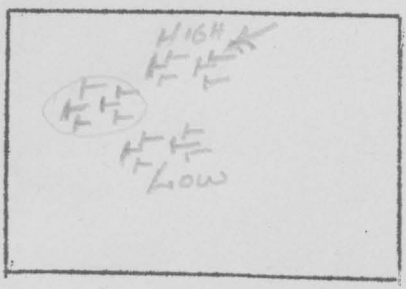
5. LECTURES

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

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

NAME McMATH, JAMES G. RANK 2ND LT ASN 0-680668 REPORT NO. _____

SQ 544 GROUP 384 A/C NO. 720 Letter P Load _____ Date SEP 6, 1943



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

NONE

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

Markings:

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support:

P47

Flak

HEAVY

Time

Place

STUTTGART
GER.

Quality

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

SECRET
EQUALS BRITISH

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "B".
MIS(X).....

The following information has been obtained from our interview with
..... (.....) who escaped
after capture by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being
in enemy/enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so
it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from
to

*Factories in Paris had been bombed with good
results but it seemed to take only a short
for the Germans to get them in operation
again - However some bombs had fallen in
private homes apparently some distance
away from targets.*

.....
.....

MIS(X).

(Lt. James G. McMath)

Appendix C

Lt. McMath was a member of a crew which crash-landed four or five kms SW of GISORS. Lt. McMath with Lt. Aufmuth and Sgt. Weatherford walked NE for about four hours and then met a woman who with several others hid ~~them~~ the Americans in a small building behind their dwelling-house. The man of the house brought civilian clothes, and ~~then~~ later the first woman's father removed the Americans to a house on the edge of GISORS. The next morning this old man took the three evaders by train to CONFLANS where they spent the night in a deserted house and the next morning took them into PARIS itself. There he turned them over to FELIX ~~who~~ (hotel keeper; English wife). A young man that afternoon took particulars of them for identity papers, and then they were taken back to GISORS where they were hidden for five days. FELIX with two young men, JEAN and GEORGES, called for them there and took them to a bakery in Paris where ~~they~~ Weatherford and McMath stayed with Mme. DINNE from 11 September to 7 October. Aufmuth stayed elsewhere.

On 7 October McMath and Weatherford ^(along with two RAF men) were taken by a girl and a French aviator to a small town N. of LEXOS. A bus met them and took them to another village

(over)

away from the railway. They spent the night at a woman's home there and the next morning went into LEXOS where they got a train to FOIX via TOULOUSE. In FOIX they met two ~~an RAF and 4 RAAF evaders~~ more evaders (RAF and RAAF). After a night and a day in the house of a schoolmistress in FOIX they walked out of town, picked up a guide, and walked until 0200 hours, when they joined the group of which Lt. Fink was one. Mc Matli's story from here is identical with that of Fink.

(5)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 183
EVASION IN FRANCE

11-5-43
(Date)

McMATH, James G., 2d Lt 0-680668
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

544

384

(Squadron) (Group)

6 September 1943

MIA: _____
Arrived in Spain: _____
OCT 20, 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: _____
OCT 29, 1943
Arrived in UK: _____
GET NOV 1, 1943

AGE: 23
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 4R 6mo
HOME ADDRESS: RED #2
KRUM, TEXAS

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-524542 2d Lt Lester H AUMFORTH	MIA	
CO-PILOT	0-680668 2d Lt James G McMATH	NARRATOR	
NAVIGATOR	0-678624 2d Lt Charles O DORRIS	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	0-671365 2d Lt James C JENSEN JR	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	34337979 S/Sgt Lewis F WEATHERFORD	MIA	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15111188 T/Sgt Robert K PRICE	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18160097 S/Sgt James L WAGNER	# 141	
WALST GUNNER	32462898 S/Sgt Carl D BACKMAN	MIA	
WALST GUNNER	14052781 S/Sgt Joseph H SMITH	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	13041301 S/Sgt Charles A FISHER	# 140	

Were you wounded? NO

GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD
6 SEPTEMBER 1943

We left GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD about 0630 6 Septmebr 1943 to bomb STUTTGART. I saw fighter escort with us about half of the way in. After our escort left, I saw many enemy fighters, but up to the target they made no attacks on our group. Most of the way in we encountered flak, which became heavy as we approached the target. We circled the target but did not bomb it because of the heavy clouds;

DID NOT
BOMB TARGET

✓ We dropped our bombs on the edge of STUTTGART instead and started for home. We might have been hit in the wings by flak, but otherwise we were untouched.

ATTACKED
BY FIGHTERS

As we left German fighters started coming in. We were the high squadron. Most of the attacks came from five and from two o'clock. Although they shot up our wings, they did no serious damage. / When We met our escort again east of Paris, the enemy pulled off. Since we knew our gas was getting low, we started throwing things out of the plane. Just north of Paris one engine cut out, and we had to drop out of formation. Almost immediately two enemy fighters jumped us and followed us down to 2000 feet. We had feathered one engine. The fighters ^{scored} made many hits in our waist and wings. ^{Since} Our whole crew was gathered in the radio room, so we did not fire back at all.

RAN OUT
OF GAS

LANDED NEAR
GISORS
TRIED TO
FIRE SHIP

~~Appx~~ We made a good landing in a large meadow 4 or five kilometers south west of GISORS. Since none of our incendiaries worked, we set fire to a parachute in the radio room. I later heard that the ammunition man tried to make a fire in some hay around the motors. We split up. The pilot, Lt AUFMUTH, and I started running through a nearby woods. We ran into the radio operator, Sgt WEATHERFORD, there. We walked in the woods for about four hours, heading ^{south} north east and intending to circle Paris. In the woods I opened my escape kit and took out the compass and the Horlicks tablets. /

THROUGH
WOODS

When we reached the edge of the woods, we came upon a woman who was riding a bicycle. She was about to turn down the path on which we were, but she saw us and stopped. We asked her for civilian clothes. Although she could not speak English, we managed to talk to her by means of the phrase ^{sheet} cards we had. // // She was most friendly. When she left us, she went to a farm house and returned with

FOUND
HELP
USED
PHRASE
CARD
SHEET

three or four other women to see if they could help us. They ^{led} took us to a little house and took care of us, giving us civilian clothes. From there our journey was arranged.

Compiled by:

RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC

Approved by:

W STULL HOLT
LT COL, AC
Commanding

APPENDICES A-E

Appendix B

1. The following information has been obtained from ~~an~~ ^{an} interview with an officer who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.
2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any particulars about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 6 September 1943 to
20 October 1943.

- a. I heard from Frenchmen in Paris that factories there had been bombed with good results, but they said that it took the Germans only a short time to get them in operation again.
These Frenchmen
- b. ~~They~~ also told me that bombs had fallen in private homes apparently some distance away from the targets.

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

29 November 1943

E & E REPORT NO. 182
EVASION IN FRANCE

McMATH, James G, 2d Lt, O-680668
544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

AGE: 23 years
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 6/12 years
HOME ADDRESS: RFD No. 2
KRUM, Texas

MIA: 6 September 1943
Arrived in Spain:
20 October 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar:
29 October 1943
Arrived in UK:
4 November 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-524542	2d Lt	Lester H AUFMUTH	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-680668	2d Lt	James G McMATH	NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	0-678624	2d Lt	Charles C DOWHE	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-671365	2d Lt	James C JENSEN JR	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34337979	S/Sgt	Lewis F WEATHERFORD	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15111188	T/Sgt	Robert K PRICE	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18160097	S/Sgt	James L WAGNER	E&E RPT 141
WAIST GUNNER	32462898	S/Sgt	Carl D BACHMAN	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	14052781	S/Sgt	Joseph H SMITH	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	13041301	S/Sgt	Charles A FISHER	E&E RPT 140

GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD
6 September 1943

We left GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD about 0630, 6 September 1943, to bomb STUTTGART. I saw fighter escort with us about half the way in. After our escort left, I saw many enemy fighters, but up to the target they made no attacks on our group. Most of the way in we encountered flak, which became heavy as we approached the target. We circled the target but did not bomb it because of the heavy clouds; instead we dropped our bombs on the edge of STUTTGART and started for home. We might have been hit in the wings by flak, but otherwise we were untouched.

DID NOT BOMB
TARGET

ATTACKED BY
FIGHTERS

RAN OUT OF GAS

As we left, German fighters started coming in. We were high squadron. Most of the attacks came from five and from two o'clock. Although they shot up our wings, they did not serious damage. When we met our escort again east of PARIS, the enemy pulled off. Since we knew our gas was getting low, we started throwing things out of the plane. Just north of PARIS our engine cut out, and we had to drop out of formation. Almost immediately two enemy fighters jumped us and followed us down to 2000 feet. We had feathered one engine. The fighters scored many hits in our waist and wings. Since our whole crew was gathered in the radio room, we did not fire back at all.

LANDED NEAR GISORS

TRIED TO FIRE SHIP

THROUGH WOODS

FOUND HELP.

USES PHRASE SHEET

We made a good landing in a large meadow 4 or 5 kilometers southwest of GISORS. Since none of our incendiaries worked, we set fire to a parachute in the radio room. I later heard that the ammunition man tried to make a fire in some hay around the motors. We split up. The pilot, Lt AUFMUTH, and I started running through a nearby woods. We ran into the radio operator, Sgt WEATHERFORD, there. We walked in the woods for about four hours, heading south east and intending to circle PARIS. In the woods I opened my escape kit and took out the compass and the Horlicks tablets.

When we reached the edge of the woods, we came upon a woman who was riding a bicycle. She was about to turn down the path on which we were, but she saw us and stopped. We asked her for civilian clothes. Although she could not speak English, we managed to talk to her by means of the phrase sheet we had. She was most friendly. When she left us, she went to a farm house and returned with three or four other women to see if they could help us. They led us to a little house and took care of us, giving us civilian clothes. From there our journey was arranged.

Compiled By:

Approved By:

W.S. Holt

RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC

W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

29 November 1943

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORT NO.

1. The following information has been obtained after an interview with an officer who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy-occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so, information as to the source may not be divulged.

Statement of information covering period from 6 September 1943
to 20 October 1943

- a. I heard from Frenchmen in PARIS that factories there had been bombed with good results, but they said that it took the German only a short time to get them in operation again.
- b. These Frenchman also told me that bombs had fallen in private homes apparently some distance away from the targets.