

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

W. E. Martin 1st Sgt. 39680339
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Schwyz

Date mission in action: Oct 14

18
(No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: Sept 19 44

547 384
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT	<u>Donald P. Olginie - P/W Redcross</u>	
CO-PILOT	<u>H. Kelmer - P/W Redcross</u>	
NAVIGATOR	<u>Unkenned - Jumped without chute - French said</u>	
BOMBARDIER	<u>H. Wilson - Dead + with plane - French said</u>	
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>1st Sgt. James Murray - escape</u>	''
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>1st Sgt. Kenneth Hood</u>	''
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>1st Sgt. James W. Keon</u>	''
WALIST GUNNER	<u>1st Sgt. Frances Sylvia</u>	''
WALIST GUNNER	<u>1st Sgt. W. E. Martin</u>	''
TAIL GUNNER	<u>1st Sgt. Louis Rathewicz</u>	''

Decorations: Air medal + three clusters

Date of Birth: Jan 25, 1920

Private Address: 820 W. 2nd No. Salt Lake City, Utah

Length of Service: 2 years 11 months

Job as Civilian: Lineman

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Burned

Were you wounded? Give details. Yes. 20 mm. burst in waist and I was hit in left leg and in head - Nothing very serious

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? Yes 1000 francs french

Do you speak FRENCH? No SPANISH? Yes GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? -

Did you have identity papers? No. No Dig TAGS

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

Yes, at Annecy by Col. Hull

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

Yes, at Annecy to Col. Hull

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

Yes, at Annecy to Col. Hull

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

No

Arrived Switzerland - Oct. 22, 43

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

leaving 13 Sept

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

Annecy - Sept 19, 44

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

~~*H. Olgive*~~
~~*H. Palmer*~~

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

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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)

(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. *9, Oct. 14, 1943*

1700 hrs. 30 kms west Verdun

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

Plane was a sheet of flame on right side

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? *23000 ft.*

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

Sgt. Sylvia Martin, Murray + Hood were wounded, and Lt. Wilson was believed to be dead.

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

Nine men bailed out. 8 landed softly. Navigator believed to be without chute.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

I didn't see

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

Yes all six E/M's were together

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 said one without chute and one in ship - Dogays were Lt. Wilsons

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?

Suff. enlisted men escaped to Switzerland. Red Cross informants Lt. Olgive + Kilmer are P/W. French found one man dead in plane and one dead without chute.

TOP SECRET

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APPENDIX C, TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land?
2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed?
3. How long was it before you got help?
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.

We jumped and landed approx. 30 Km. west of Verdun in a small village. Three of us E.M. were taken in by perch and taken to Verdun there we met the other three enlisted men. We stayed in Verdun 5 days with a french woman. We also saw a Catholic priest who was in the organization. We stayed in Verdun from the 16th to the 31st. We were taken by train to Belfort and then walked across the Swiss border. We entered Switzerland the 31st of Oct. I know no names or addresses

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

The only other men besides my own crew which I saw were Sgt. Herbert Geyer - Sgt. Hugh W. Smith and H. Gene Combs. They came to Verdun just as we left.

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.,.....)

OK. No use now -

Martin 23-21,000 - daily c10,000¹
near system

Almost landed in Paris - bid in bar -

notify dr who came for Sylvia

He remembers - contact with Sgt Wood.

Next day saw

Slept in woods but not following in house - days first
following not with Mr boy and Wood - then

Vander - to outskirts - to point where take to have

where McKem & 2 - then still to Sunday

P 6 days the lady & her son took the Navy to
Belmont - then back to walk - to farmhouse

About moved - to Portmarty - continued brief

To Beau - Swiss 10 quarters - Ask how was
brother & who help him. - c.15 mins given

Not in jail - Next an agent in took over -

Col de John asked story - that is the former

Clinton books 21 days - c 2 months

1. Klostis

Oliver

Two books get pass to see by fruit - now given

Hold taking truck to Downing

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

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? *Used*

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. *White in woods overnight*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *"*

Milk (tube). *No*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *No*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *No*

Matches. *Lighting Cigarettes*

Adhesive tape. *For bandages*

Chewing gum. *Yes gave to people*

Water bottle. *No*

Compass. *No*

Sewing kit. *No*

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Had in woods*

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? *Yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *Red stripes*
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?

did not need maps

Compass,

" compass

File (hacksaw).

" file

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

*paid guide 1000
frank's french*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Gave to french

Compass.

"

File (hacksaw).

"

Surplus currency.

None

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

No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

Yes

If so, how many?

Two.

b. Did you use them?

Yes, in identity cards.

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

On escape - yes.

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

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 escapees?

No

2213
S/Sgt William E MARTIN, 39680339, 547/384 Bomb Gp, MIA 14 Oct 43
Intvd 20 Sept 44

MARTIN bailed out at 23,000-21,000', delayed his jump for about 10,000 feet, and almost landed in French arms. Sgt SYLVIA (E&E 2425) landed nearby, and the two were hid in a barn while a doctor came for SYLVIA. Contact was soon made with Sgt HOOD (E&E 2090). After sleeping the first night in the woods the men went the next day to a house where there was a large family. That night they went by bicycle with a French boy, met HOOD, and went to the outskirts of VERDUN where they met a priest who took them to a house where they met Sgts MCKEON, MURRAY, and RATKLEWICZ. 1166 2413 1957

After about six days the lady at this house with her son took MARTIN, SYLVIA, and HOOD to NANCY and then to BELFORT. From here they went by truck and then walked to a farmhouse.

The night of 22 Oct 43 they crossed into Switzerland and went to Porrentruy where the Swiss questioned them briefly. They went to Bern where the Swiss asked more questions, questioning how they had crossed the border and who had helped them.

MARTIN thinks that he told his story for Col de JOHNS of the MA's office and that he was asked for names of helpers.

Martin went to GERTENKOLn, Kloster, and Glion.

He once tried for three weeks to get a pass to go see an English friend and never received it.

DEE

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) William E. MARTIN
Rank S/SGT. A. S. N. 39680339
Unit 384 B. Gr. 547 B. Sq.

Signed William E. Martin
Dated Sept 20 1944
Witness L. Amerson Capt MS

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

William F. Martin - S/sgt, 39680339-547 Sq. 384 B.G. 8th A.F.
Name Rank & Serial No. Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: Oct. 14, 1943 - 30 K. west Verdun
Date & Approximate location.

Experiences after being shot down: Landed in Frenchmans
arms, and contacted organization immediately
was escorted across Swiss border

Status: Escapee - ~~Evader~~ - ~~Internee~~.

Date of Escape: Oct. 22, 1943

Date of Arrival at MAAF: Ancey Sept. 13, 44

Physical Condition: Good

REMARKS: No freedom - Swiss like money too
much and took advantage of the
fact that Americans had a little

Home Address: 830 W. 2nd N. Salt Lake City, Utah

Departed MAAF Hq.: -