

My story is the same as that of T/Sgt James R. Murray until Oct, 43, when we got to Switzerland.

later

I was 'sent' for disciplinary reasons, to Wauwilermoos camp. In June, ~~in~~ with Sgt. FRAUSTO and a Pole named "Henry", I left the camp and went to CRASSIER, with the intention of crossing the border. We were caught there, and sent back to camp. I escaped again in July, and was caught in Zurich, ~~but~~ being again sent back to Wauwilermoos. On 23 July I was freed from the camp to work for the Military Attache, at the town of NEBIKON, near the camp. On 19 Sept FRAUSTO and I decided to try to get out of Switzerland again. He was caught getting out of camp, however, so was unable to join me. An Italian Alpine officer, Lt. BERROTI took me to MORTIGNY, where another Italian, MAJ. OSMANIA, met me and took me to ZERMATT. I crossed the frontier near the MATTERHORN, where the funicular was in partisan hands. We ~~went to~~ went to CERVINA, in Italy, and partisans took

us from there to VOULTE RANCHE, where I spent 7 days. From there on, with the Italian partisans, I went to GREASONY (3 days), LILLIUM (near VAL di AOSTA) (3 days), VERRÉS, CHAMPAGHA (2 days), COGNE (2 days), WALSEVERANCHE (2 days), then crossed into France, where I joined the FFI at St. Maurice. They took me to GRENOBLE, where I reported to US authorities. The majority of my story from this point on consists of my efforts to contact someone who would listen to the vital intelligence information which I had gained. I asked this of every American authority whom I contacted, but ~~not~~ was unable to ~~see or~~ give the information until I arrived in London. The first officer to whom I reported was Lt. HENDERSON, an intelligence officer

at GRENOBLE. I told him I had very important military information and desired to see the G-2 of the Seventh Army as soon as possible. He said he would arrange this, but the next day he put me on a box car which he said went to Marseilles, and he spoke no further of my intelligence information. The train did not go to Marseilles, but to VEYNS, where I alighted and hitch-hiked to Marseilles. I reported there to a British Colonel who had me identified. From there I hitch-hiked to ~~the~~ AIX and reported to Hq 12<sup>th</sup> AF Service Command, from whence I got transportation to Paris, and from there to The UK.



## Ratkiewicz

B-17 tail gun shot down about 25 km S of Verdun. Set out with T/Sgt Murray, & T/Sgt McKeon. (E&E's)

See Murray's report

~~21 Sept~~

In June, with Sgt Drausto, left Wauwil, where they had been for dis. reasons. Got out of camp with Pole named Henry. Went to frontier, caught there (at Crassier). Sent back to W. Tried again in July. Caught in Zurich.

Nebikon <sup>near W.</sup>, working for MA, after being freed from W. on 23 July. Decided to try again with Sgt Drausto on 19 Sept. Drausto was caught before joining Ratk. Lt Berroti, Italian Alpine officer took him to Martigny. Waited for Maj. Osmania, another Italian. Met him, then went to Zermatt. Went to frontier near Matterhorn.

Officer, since he asked to give intelligence info. He said he had vital info, and asked to get to G-2 Sec 7<sup>th</sup> Army. Henderson said OK, but next day put him on boxcar for Marseilles. Train did not go to Marseilles. Tr stopped at Veyns, ~~Litch~~ hitch-hiked to Marseilles.

Rep'd to English Col who had him identified. Thence hitch-hiked to Aix, to 12<sup>th</sup> AF Ser Comd. Told there he would have to wait for transp't to Paris. ~~So~~ Got to Paris, then UK.

Juncula in partisan hands. Rode down to Cervina in Italy. Partisans moved them to VOULTERANCHE. 7 Days there. ~~Left~~ Left major there. Went with Lt, 2 days walk, to Greasony. Stayed 3 days with partisans. Walked to LILLIUM, about 4 km from German-occupied Val di Aosta. At LILLIUM 3 days. Dought with partisans. Went across Val di Aosta at town of Verres. Next stop CHAMPAGHA. With other partisans here 2 days. Thence to COGNE. Stayed 2 days with partisans. Thence WALSERVERANCHE. About 2 days. Thence into mountains. 1 night, then crossed into ~~Italy~~ France, went to St Maurice. Joined FFI. Taken to Grenoble. Had intelligence info for Lt still with Italian Lt. At Grenoble, reported to MP's, who took him to a Lt HENDERSON, intelligence



# 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 supercedes 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.

- SECRET.**
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
  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.
  3. *b* You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
  4. *c* You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
  5. *d* You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.
  6. *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.

### 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 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) LOUIS K. PATKIEWICZ Signed Louis K. Patkiewicz  
Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 10601012 Dated 1 Oct 44  
Unit 384 B.M.B. GMP. 597 Sgl Witness P. J. [Signature]  
160 [Signature]

AG P BR HQ 50S

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# RESTRICTED

SECRET

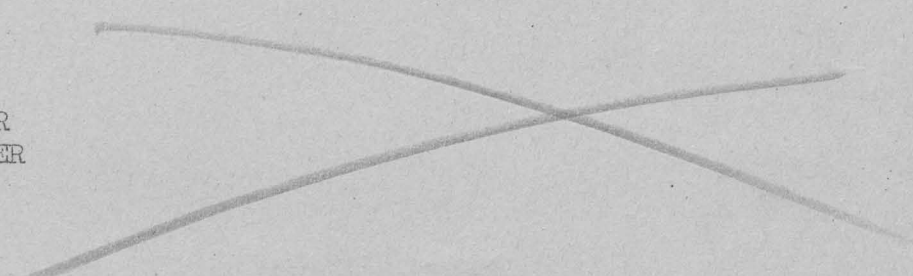
HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

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  
MID TURRET GUNNER  
WING GUNNER  
WING GUNNER  
TAIL GUNNER



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

OCT. 14 1943 OVER PANGLM FRONTIER

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

on fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21000

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

Unknown

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

Sydney Martin McKeon Murray Hood

yes

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Unknown

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

yes, at 3 CH

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 members were identified by name or otherwise.

near by.

yes, Hedberg

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?



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.,.....)

(This info all given to OSS - EST)

Bombing of Pont S. Martini, N of Milan, early in September, by Mitchells, was very poor. Missed target, killed 300 civilians. Also killed about 70 Germans + Fascists. Observation - September

On 23 Sept, there were ~~6000~~ 9000

Germans on frontier, supplied by Val di Aosta. from Torino, between Piccolo <sup>St</sup> ~~San~~ Bernardo and Courmayeur. About 50 Germans + 50 Fascists in each village between there + Torino.

Aosta has 21 mil. barracks + many industrial establishments

Observation - September

If partisans in this area could be given proper arms (HMG's, road mines, more Tommy guns) + mortars they could cut supply route in Val Di Aosta. on SE side of town

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

*Lois*  
RATKIEWICZ 2/SGT 10601012  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
16 (No. of missions)  
547 384  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: SCHWEINFURT  
Date mission in action: OCT. 14  
Date arrived in UK: OCT. 1 1944

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT	— LT. OGLIVIE	BAILED OUT	
CO-PILOT	LT. KILMER		
NAVIGATOR	Unknown		
BOMBARDIER	LT. WILSON		
RADIO OPERATOR	T/SGT. MURRAY	BAILED OUT	(SEEN)
TOP TURRET GUNNER	T/SGT. HOOD	" "	"
BALL TURRET GUNNER	T/SGT. McKEON	" "	"
WAIST GUNNER	S/SGT. SYLVIA	" "	"
WAIST GUNNER	S/SGT. MARTIN	" "	"
TAIL GUNNER	S/SGT. RATKIEWICZ	" "	"

Decorations: A.M. B  
Date of Birth: OCT. 22 1915  
Private Address: 307 Cooper St. Jackson Mich.  
Length of Service: Apr. 27 1943  
Job as Civilian: MACHINIST BALL PLAYER

From what field did you take off? Take off time.  
GRAFTON UNDER WOOD 10:30  
Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes  
Were you wounded? Give details. teeth smashed & burns on neck.  
Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? yes 2500.  
Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?  
Did you have identity papers? yes



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

Switzerland, Grenoble France.

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

Grenoble France

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

Switzerland M/O office

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

Grenoble France

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. Oct 1 1943

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

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?

c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights". *While hiding and due to losing my teeth.*  
Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *no*

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *before leaving, further*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *no*

Matches. *yes*

Adhesive tape. *no*

Chewing gum. *no*

Water bottle. *no*

Compass. *yes*

Sewing kit. *no*

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

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *buried it*

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?  
*no*

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse?  
State color of stripes and letters. ~~no~~ *yes*  
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse? ~~no~~ *yes*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones? *Trench*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *yes no*

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

d. How did you dispose of:- *F*

Maps. *1 Confiscated burnt rest.*

Compass. *"*

File (hacksaw). *threw away*

Surplus currency. *none over.*

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? *3*

b. Did you use them? *yes*

5. LECTURES

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

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? *no*