

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS(X)

HQ, ETOUSA

OFFICE OF AC OF S, G-2

MIS DETACHMENT

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *Penly Robert, H Tsgt 32287820*
2. Decorations.
3. Unit or Squadron. *384th Bomb Group 544th Bomb Squadron*
4. Division (Army) or Group.
5. Date of Birth. *4/24/1913*
6. Length of Service. *1 1/2 y*
7. Private Address. *Gasport New York*
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?
*Bombing Le Mans July 4/43 11 AM ~~11:43 AM~~ St. Clare
July 4 - 1300*
9. If in AF, give names of other members of crew and what happened to them.
10. Give details and full story of your trip on attached sheets.
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 experience? Where and when? *yes. Madrid Major Clark no.*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
Major Clark
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *Madrid, S.C.*
17. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
Aug 15 by air Gibraltar
18. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
Gibraltar Plymouth Aug 16,

1943
1913
30

HQ, ETOUSA
Office of AC of S, G-2
MIS Detachment

E & E REPORT NO. 61
EVASION IN FRANCE

26 AUGUST
(Date)

ROBERT H. PENLY T/SGT 32281820
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

544 384
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 30 years
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 1/2 years
HOME ADDRESS: Gosport
NEW YORK

MIA: 4 JULY 1943
Arrived in Spain: 1 AUGUST 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: 13 AUGUST 1943
Arrived in UK: 16 AUGUST 1943

OTHER MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)
Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- LEFT WAIST GUNNER
- RIGHT WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER

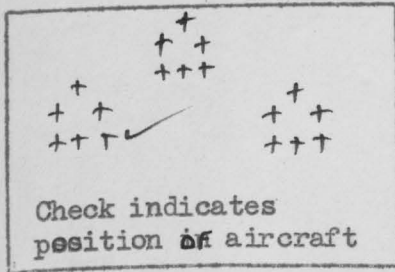
SEE # 65

We left Grafton Underwood at 11:00 July 4-43
to bomb the motor works at Le Mans.
We encountered no flak until we were on
the bombing run. There were fighter and
flak on the run. Flak concentration in two
places before the target and over the target.
We drop our bomb load and headed for
home. Our bomb bay doors had hardly
shut when flak hit the propeller cloche
of no 4 engine. The propeller could not
be feathered. We fell out of formation
and then the fighters come in attacking
from the side. We received shot in the oxygen
system in the nose and the oxygen tank fore.
We got orders to bail out. I step into the bomb
bay and pulled the emergency release which failed
to work. I went to the emergency exit in the
nose and the door failed to work also. I wedged
myself out of the door and Lt. Hackley was wanting
for me to get thru. My clothes were on fire and
the slip stream put it out after falling a short distance.
I pulled the big cord at about 20,000 ft and
came down about two miles from the rest of the
crew. I immediately after striking the ground I took
off my chute and put it into a hedge. There
were several French people to greet me and
they led me to a hedge about 500 ft away.
They took my chute and life vest away in a
bag. They became frightened and wanted for me
to hide. I threw myself into a ditch by the hedge
and stayed very quiet for about one hr. Lying
in about a foot of water. Then the French people
come back with food and airtment to dress my

burns on my face and right hand. I could hardly stand up because of my back. When I struck the ground I did not strike on my feet but on my back and lying in the water made it very stiff. The French people brought me clothes and I put them on and a young girl and boy took me to their home about a half mile away. There I stayed in a hay loft until about 2300 that night (July 4). Then four French men took me thru fields to where. To Evieban, S/Sgt Wingster, S/Sgt Ashworth and Sgt Freeman.

NAME Gordon B. ERICKSON RANK F/O ASN T-60135 REPORT NO. 65

SQ 544 GROUP 384 A/C NO. 229960 Letter SUJ Load 10-500 Date 4 July 1943



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: None

Enemy Fighter Tactics: To the rear of the ship.
Markings:

Our Tactics: Slight evasive action.

Our Fighter Support: Spitfires going in (approximately 30 miles from coast)
P-47's going out, same distance.
None over target.

<u>Flak</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
	Approximately 12:30	LE MANS	Heavy, in patches.

Technical Failures

Motors: Number four engine hit by flak in prop dome, throwing oil (all) out.
Number three engine supercharger fluctuated.

Armor:

Armament: Bombardier's gun failed.
Right waist gun failed.
Ball turret ran out of ammunition.

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

When a plane falls out of formation over enemy territory, pilot should have the three hatches pulled.

Bombardier - navigator.
Main entrance hatch.
Tail gunner's hatch.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 67.

No., Rank, Name *Penly, Robert H.* *32281820*Unit :- *544 Sq 384 Bf* *MIA 4 July*

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? *no*
- (b) If not, had you one on you? *Lost.*
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box? *Lost in laundry out.*
IN SHIN POCKET OF OVERALLS
- (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.
- (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? *no* *you*
If so, state COLOR. *Brown*
If NOT, state why not. *Lost.*
IN SHIN POCKET OF OVERALLS.
- (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.

Be sure to have your dog tags

- (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? *yes (3) three*

(b) Did you use them? *no.*

State how. *Given to French helpier as photograph in Paris*

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes*

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

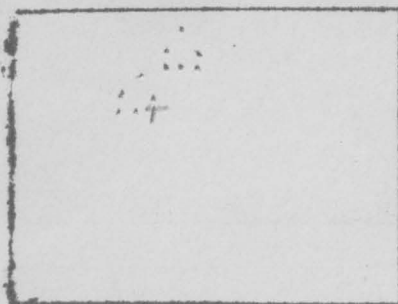
Gaeton Underwood. Before each mission. Cap Dalab (Dolan)

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *yes*

Penly

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GROUP 384 SQ 544 A/C No. 229960 Letter S.U.T Load 10-500 Date JULY 4-43



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing

That note large fire

Enemy fighter tactics:
markings:

Below and to the side. They come in such a position so that the main gunner did most of the firing.

Our Tactics *Defensive action*

Our fighter support. *none*

Flak

Time,	Place,	Quality.
<i>12:30</i>	<i>Before the target and over the target</i>	<i>Block and plenty of it</i>

(over)

Technical Failures

Motors *no 4 motor out (Flak)*

Armor *~~Bombardier gun out~~*

Armament *Bombardier gun out, Waist gun out,
Ball turret out of ammunition*

Miscellaneous

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

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) RENLY Robert H. Signed [Signature]
 Rank T/Sgt A.S.N. 32281820 Date 8/14/43
 Unit 544th Sph. 384th Group Witness [Signature]
 GRADY LEWIS,
 Major, A.C.



CONFIDENTIAL

MILITARY OBS. GIBRALTAR

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. ARMY CASUAL DETACHMENT
GIBRALTAR

13 August 1943

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel named below,

Tech. Sgt. ROBERT H. PENLY, 32281820, 544th Sqdn, 384th Grp.
Staff Sgt. GEORGE ASHWORTH, 31170831, 544th Sqdn, 384th Grp.
Staff Sgt. FRANK J. WINGERTER, 15090270, 544th Sqdn, 384th
Grp.

having reported at this station on 13 August 1943, you are placed on temporary duty this office. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to LONDON, ENGLAND, where you will report without delay to the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army. By authority of WD Cablegram No. 45, 4 February 1943, in lieu of subsistence, a flat per diem of \$4.00 is authorized while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty this station, in accordance with existing law and regulations. TDN FD 1-5412 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

By order of Colonel FORSTER:

OFFICIAL:

Grady Lewis
GRADY LEWIS,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

GRADY LEWIS,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

Distribution.

MIS
Hq ETOUSA (A.C. of S. 3G-2)
Personnel concerned
File



CONFIDENTIAL

MILITARY OBS. GIBRALTAR

9 April 1943

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

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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.
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- 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 ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulsifer
 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) Robert H Penix Signed *Robert H Penix*Rank T/ser ASN 32281820 Date 8/17/43Unit 384th Eng 544th Sgts Witness *John White*
P. AC.