

1

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. *William Aguiar Ssgt 31036351*
2. Decorations.
3. Unit or Squadron. *544th*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384th*
5. Date of Birth. *June 10, 1920*
6. Length of Service. *22 months*
7. Private Address. *109 Elm St. Swansea, Mass.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, time of departure. Where and when did you come down? Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?  
*Villaoublay France First operation 26*  
*Not to my knowledge. Bezu La Foret 6:00 PM*  
*Not destroyed 4:00 PM*
9. If in AF, give names of other members of crew and what happened to them.  

<i>2d Lt Hunt</i>	} evaded capture	<i>2d Lt Burgoon</i>	} two are believed to be prisoners of War
<i>2d Lt Wilmot</i>		<i>2d Lt Kress</i>	
<i>3/sgt MacFarland</i>		<i>sgt Jenkins</i>	
<i>1/sgt Peckham</i>			
<i>1/sgt Castello</i>			
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?  
*1 Yes Madrid, Spain Major Clark*  
*2 Yes Gibraltar August 23*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *Yes*  
*Spain Aug 14*  
*Gib. Aug 23*  
*U.K. Aug 27*
17. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.  
*Merrilee, Africa Aug 26 Air*
18. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Preswick, Scotland August 27, 1943*

2

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

544 Bomb Squadron

SEVICOR  
SERVICIA  
VAOIDE

Tom J.E. HUNT, 2d Lt, O-732619  
544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

AGE: 23 years  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 27/12 years  
HOME ADDRESS: 2814 10th Ct. So. BIRMINGHAM, Alabama

William (NMI) AGUIAR, S/Sgt, 31036351  
544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

AGE: 23 years  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 10/12 years  
HOME ADDRESS: 109 Elm Street SWANSEA, Massachusetts

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	O-522702	2d Lt Howard C. BURGOON	MIA
CO-PILOT	O-671969	2d Lt Victor C. KRESS	MIA
NAVIGATOR	O-670198	2d Lt David B. WILMOT	MIA
BOMBARDIER	O-732619	2d Lt Tom J.E. HUNT	NARRATOR
RADIO OPERATOR	O-33019662	S/Sgt Harold S. McFARLAND	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	O-32286378	S/Sgt Edward L. PECKHAM	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	O-31036351	S/Sgt William (NMI) AGUIAR	NARRATOR
WALST GUNNER	O-14080507	S/Sgt Roland H. JENKINS	MIA
WALST GUNNER	O-12034337	S/Sgt Edward E. COSTELLO	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	O-36210809	S/Sgt Henry J. ULLMER	MIA

GRAFTON  
UNDERWOOD  
26 June 1943

We left GRAFTON UNDERWOOD at 1600 hours 26 June 1943 to bomb WELLAGOUBLAY. We encountered light flak as soon as we crossed the coast of FRANCE. We had started our run on the target when the pilot called to say we would have to drop our bomb load because fighters were starting an attack and two of our motors had been hit. I asked if we couldn't wait a few seconds since we were almost over the target. After releasing the bombs I saw smoke pouring out of number two engine and soon after this number three and four started smoking. On the

ATTACKED BY FW's  
HIL  
BOMB ENGINES

Fighters (about 15) were coming in low at 6 o'clock, singly. The weather was cloudy and there was no flak. I Sgt AGUIAR, ball-turret gunner, shot down two fighters + one went down trailing heavy black smoke and the others after coming in to fifty yards, fell away in a column. I saw the pilot before he got the chance to say anything. I, as joint pilot, when I saw the pilot call the navigator for the

FOUR ENGINES  
HIT

EX LA,  
VLLVCKED

spiral. (Just) then I heard the pilot call the navigator for the course home but before he got the course he called out, "I've lost all four engines! Bale out!" The navigator had trouble with the escape hatch and after getting the door away was stuck for about a minute before he got out of the ship. I followed him out at 22000 feet with the engineer was immediately behind me, I took a

and waited but a few seconds before pulling the ripcord. On the way down I saw two chutes and no enemy fighters. I landed in a wheat field and was uninjured except for face cuts made by rocks as the chute dragged me. As soon as I had gathered up my equipment several Frenchmen had arrived. I gave them two or three hundred francs. They took my chute and the rest. I was running to a wood when I met a man and woman. By using my escape maps I tried to find out from them where I had landed. We were not very successful but they took me to their home. I waited here while they sent for a young friend of theirs.

SE 1000 1000  
UNDEEMOOD  
SECURES  
IMMEDIATE AID

He took me to the barn in back of his home and helped me make a bed in the stacked hay.

JVIT GOMUES  
AVISEL GOMUES  
AVISEL GOMUES  
BVIT LAKBEL GOMUES  
JOB LAKBEL GOMUES  
KVIO OBEVLOB  
BOEVKIDIE

Early the next morning a different friend brought civilian clothes and told me that he knew where other members of my crew were. We waited until night before the young man who was sheltering me took me to a small village where I spent three days in an abandoned house across the street from a new friend who brought food to me during the day. On 30 June I was moved to another village where I joined Sgt AGUIAR. From here our journey was arranged.

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED  
BITOL

SGT AGUIAR'S STORY UNTIL JOINING LT HUNT:

MEMBERS OF CREW: (My information checked after bail)

HOME ADDRESS:  
LENGTH OF SERVICE:  
AGE:

I did not hear the order to bale out but I saw Sgt JENKINS leaving the plane and another chute below. As I opened the door of the turret I saw Sgt COSTELLO jump and Sgt McFARLAND going toward the bomb bay doors. After removing my oxygen mask I put on my chute and

SEES SIX  
CHUTES

I delayed but a few seconds before pulling the ripcord. There were six chutes below me. Our plane made a wide circle and passed very close to me. I did not see it crash and when I last saw it one engine was still wind-milling.

HOME ADDRESS:  
LENGTH OF SERVICE:  
AGE:

I landed, uninjured, in a plowed field. After unbuckling my chute I rolled my Mac West in it and ran to a small wood about fifty yards away. I had been in hiding for about fifteen minutes and was studying my escape maps when two Frenchmen approached. They whistled and circled me twice before I came out to speak to them. One spoke some English and said that the Germans were in the neighborhood. They pointed to some fields and told me to crawl through to the edge and they would come for me that night. It took me about four hours to crawl to the place I was to meet but I did it very carefully for I could hear Germans occasionally though I did not see them. After midnight a young boy came for me and took me to his home. I was given civilian clothes and before morning moved to another house where I stayed until joined by Lt HUNT.

AVOIDS  
GERMAN  
SEARCH

Compiled By: [Name] G-5  
[Name]

Approved By:

JOHN F. WHITE JR. - BELLISH  
1st Lt, AC

W.S. HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

5



SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

31 August 1943

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORTS NOS 81 & 82

1. The following information has been obtained after an interview with an Officer and a Sergeant 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, no information as to the source may be divulged.

Statement of information covering period from: *26 June*  
*12 Aug*

1. At MASSY PALAISEAU there is a very large railroad junction with a great deal of night activity. Told that it was movement of supplies. July 1943
2. CYR DE SATORY (this town is unidentified) - a large munitions dump here. July 1943
3. Between ROUEN and GOURNAY in a forest by the side of a main road there are many troops and a large number of blockhouses. July 1943
4. Northwest of PONTOISE, between PONTOISE and MARINES there is an airdrome which is camouflaged to resemble a village. It has underground hangars. July 1943
5. Many locomotives were seen at a main railroad junction (ACHERES) between ROUEN and PARIS. Travelling to PARIS from ROUEN, a large airdrome was seen just outside of PARIS with many camouflaged twin-engine, twin-tail ships dispersed over the field.
6. Saw a small arsenal in a cave in woods near BEZILA FOREST which contained about 25 English-type machine guns, 50 Luger pistols, several kegs of daggers and several kegs of Winchester ammunition, also several kegs of dynamite. Told that these were dropped at night by British planes to Frenchmen who had it hidden until the Allied invasion. July 1943
7. A newly constructed radio station about halfway between DOUDEAUVILLE and ROUEN was seen from road. It was located at a large cross-roads where two main roads cross at right angles. It was built underground with only the roof showing. Constructed of wood and brick, it had three large loop antennae. July 1943
8. About 7 August, bomb-proof shelters were in process of construction at German Headquarters about a block from the Arc de Triomphe in PARIS. July 1943
9. Anti-aircraft gun emplacements with sound detectors were built on the largest hill in ROUEN. July 1943

10. While travelling by train from BORDEAUX to DAX much activity (troop movement) was noted. Several trains carrying small tanks were passed. August 1943

11. All German troops seen were very young and very poorly dressed. They appeared tired and depressed. The officers were not of much better spirit than the men but were well equipped. July - August 1943

12. There is a large training airrome near BAYONNE using ME 109's. Evaders informed that it was a training field for pilots and one of the largest. August 1943

13. There were large boats, which appeared to be transports, in the river at BORDEAUX. There were many German ships docked at ROUEN. August - July 1943

14. From a train, a large and busy cement factory was seen about half-way between ROUEN and PARIS. July 1943

2. Many locomotives were seen at a main railway junction (VICHY) between ROUEN and BAYONNE. It was unexpectedly quiet. In the neighbourhood of BAYONNE there is an airrome.

3. The main roads and a large number of projections. July 1943  
Between ROUEN and COGNAC in a forest at the side of a main road there

5. CNE DE SVALBY (this town is unidentified) - a large mountainous area.  
7. At MASSA PARVISEVA there is a very large railway junction with a large

Statement of information covering period from 1942 to 1943

5. Further information of this information may be made by the agent being in enemy-occupied territory.  
1. The following information has been obtained after an inspection with an officer who is believed to be a member of the enemy staff.

APPENDIX "B" TO E & R REFERENCE NO. 87 & 88

21 August 1943

MIS Department  
Office of VC of G-5  
HQ BUREAU

NOTE: SECRET - BRITISH  
SECRET - AMERICAN

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

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AC of S, A-2, VIII AF  
MIS, Washington, POW BRANCH  
RAF School Highgate (S/Ldr Evans)  
File

APPENDIX "A" - LIST OF HELPERS

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File

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APPENDIX "B" - MILITARY INFORMATION

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APPENDIX "C" - FUTURE PLANS

I.S.9  
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APPENDIX "D" - EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

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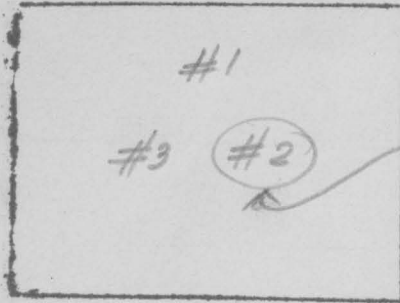
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Agua

3

GROUP 384 SQ 544 A/C No. 230031 Letter ? Load 5000 Date June 26



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing

Unobserved

Me 109s (one Squadron)

Enemy fighter tactics:  
markings:

Attacked formation 6 o'clock Low  
#1 and #3 aircrafts went down  
saw 4 parachutists #3 aircraft. Me 109 attacked 6 o'clock Low  
I fired upon aircraft and saw it go down in black smoke.  
Several Me 109s attacked our aircraft hitting tailplane with cannon  
Me 109 approached ~~tail turret~~ about 50 yards below  
ball turret in a half roll. I fired upon  
aircraft and saw it go down in a spin.

Our Tactics

Sgt Ulmer tailgunner seen aircrafts go down.  
One week later Frenchmen said he seen two Me 109s that were  
shot down on June 26 in area where our aircraft went down.  
Sgt MacFarland was present when Frenchman told us of the  
two enemy fighters.

No fighter support

Flak

Time, Place, Quality.

3/igt

5:30 PM

Coast of France

(over)

Technical Failures

Motors

Lost all four engines

Armor

Armament

Good order

Miscellaneous

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

Ball turret gunners should take portable oxygen bottle in ball. It was very helpful in my case.



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

No., Rank, Name :- 31036351 4397 William Aguilar  
 Unit :- 544 Sqd. 384 Group

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? *yes*
- (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.
- (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~~ *YES*  
 If so, state COLOR. *TAN WITH MARK IV*  
 If NOT, state why not.
- (b) Did you use the purse? *YES*
- (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? *NORTHERN FRANCE & SPAIN*
  - (ii) Compass.

- (iii) File (hacksaw).
- (iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money. *SPENT WITH GUIDES*

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

*GAUETO GUIDES*

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  
one*

(b) Did you use them?  
State how.

*No because it was too small*

5. LECTURES

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

*Yes  
Nebraska May 10  
Nettering June 20*

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

*Yes*

PRELIMINARY WARNING AGAINST GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR  
ESCAPE, EVASION OF CAPTURE, OR REPATRIATION.

This applies to Members of all Services.

1. It is the duty of all persons to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. The Defence Regulations make it an offence, punishable with imprisonment, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorised person any information or anything which purports to be information on any matter which would or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy.
3. This document is brought to your personal notice so that you may clearly understand information about your escape or how you evaded capture is information which would be useful to the enemy, and that therefore to communicate any information about your escape or how you evaded capture is an offence under the Defence Regulations.
4. At the earliest possible moment you will be interrogated by an Officer or Officers specially appointed for this purpose, who will instruct you how to deal with questions by your family, friends, and members of the public, whether in the Services or not.

TO BE COMPLETED IN THE PERSON'S OWN HANDWRITING, AND WITNESSED BY AN OFFICER.

I have read the above paragraphs, and I understand that I must on no account disclose any information about my escape, evasion of capture, or repatriation, to any unauthorized person, and I undertake to maintain a strict secrecy about my experiences.

Signed William Aguilar Date Aug. 27/43

Full Name. (Block letters) William AGUILAR

Rank and Number S/Sgt 3/036351

Unit 544 Bomb Sqd. 384 Bomb Group

Witnessed by Browell



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 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) Aguiar, William Signed William Aguiar  
 Rank 1st Lt ASN 31036351 Date August 27, 1943  
 Unit 544 3rd 384 Bomb Group Witness Richard R. Nelson  
*Major a.c.*

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AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

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- 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) William Aquiar Signed William Aquiar  
 Rank Sgt A.S.N. 31036351 Date August 13, 1943  
 Unit 544 Sq. 384 Bomb Group Witness Grady Lewis  
Gregor

(2)

# CONFIDENTIAL

MILITARY OBS. GIBRAI TAD  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
U.S. ARMY CASUAL DETACHMENT  
GIBRALTAR

23 August 1943

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel named below.

Staff Sgt. WILLIAM AGUIAR, 31036351, 544th Sqdn., 384th  
Bm. Grp.  
Staff Sgt. WILLIAM F. CROWE, 17033526, 453rd Bm. Sqn.  
323rd Bm. Grp.  
Staff Sgt. JOSEPH M. HAGER, 33168527, 453rd Bm. Sqn.  
323rd Bm. Grp.

having reported at this station on 23 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. Under 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 FSA 1-5600 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

By order of Colonel FORSTER:

GRADY LEWIS,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Executive Officer.

OFFICIAL:

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

Distribution.

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

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