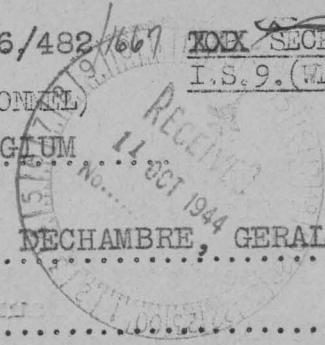


(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURED ~~BY SOVIETS~~ FROM (Name of Country) BELGIUM

For all Personnel.



- 1. No. 0-682013 Rank 2nd Lt. Name DECHAMBRE, GERALD P.  
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 7
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. Yes, pieces above the eye and face
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 335th Bomb Sqn
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 95th Bomb Gp, Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) Bombardier
- 7. Date of Birth 20 July 1923 8. Length of Service 22 months
- 9. Peace time occupation Radio Tester 10. Private address 1514 Highland Ave.  
Wilmette, Illinois
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? yes, dog tags and photo
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? little French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

- 13. No. and location of O.T.U.
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit.

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BALE OUT.

- 15. Post in Crew... BOMBARDIER
- 16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.  
N.B. - Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT... Mowers, C.H. 2nd Lt.
- CO-PILOT... Roderick, G.E. 2nd Lt.
- NAVIGATOR... O'Boyle, D.W. 2nd Lt. 1798
- BOMBARDIER... Narrator
- RADIO OPERATOR... Griffin C. comes be repatriate
- TOP TURRET GUNNER... Gebert, H.C.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER... Graech
- WAIST GUNNER (R.)... Torok, A.
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)... Bialms
- TAIL GUNNER... Warren, C. 1886
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure. B-17 G, 95th Bomb Gp.  
January 24, 1944 - Approx 0815
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Waure, Belgium - about 11:00
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Some Belgium  
... patriots hid them.
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes

Interview by I.S. 9. (WEA)

Date 9 Sept. 1944

Attached:

I grade this evasion No. 5

- Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "D"

*Joseph A. Birdwell*  
JOSEPH A. BIRDWELL

Disposal: Returned back to unit

1st. Lt., AC

Major

DISTRIBUTION:

- Hq. I.S. 9 (WEA).....2
- 12th Army Group.....2 (less C)
- 9th AF.....1

When the pilot gave the order to jump we abandoned the ship. Some flak came through the left side hitting me about the eyes (above) and sprinkling bits about the face. I landed all right and at once several farmers took my chute, mae west, etc. They said I was near Wanre, Belgium and then went to the farm. ~~THEY SAID~~ There they washed the blood from my face. Then I ~~XXXX~~ left my boots and flying suit. The Germans were around so they told me to leave for the woods. Well I went to the woods and later a fellow brought me to another house where I got some peasants clothes, and we buried my uniform.

A lady brought me into Brussels on the train. When we arrived at her house she said a friend of ~~the~~ hers had ~~XXXX~~ taken two of my fellows a little earlier in Brussels but that the Germans had taken them.

1799

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-682013 Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) DECHAMBRE, GERALD P.

Unit 335th Bomb Sqdn. 95<sup>th</sup> Op

has been fully/~~XXXXXX~~interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)  
on 9 Sept. 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

*Joseph A. Birdwell*  
JOSEPH A. BRDWELL Major  
1st. Lt., AC

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE ~~SHOULD~~ BE OBTAINED AND HANDLED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9  
OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks  
Street, London

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/482/1661

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. O-682013 Rank 2nd Lt. Name DECHAMBRE, GERALD P.

Date of Interview 9 Sept. 1944

I was taken to the farm of Charlier Rene, near Waure, Belgium where I had my face washed from blood.

~~XXXX~~

From this ladies house I moved about several days until I came to 18 Rue de Cult, Bruxelles when I met a Dr. Kharkofs I then moved to his ~~XXXX~~ home for three weeks at 106 Rue de Laeken, Bruxelles. Then a Mons. George Auguier, 115 Boulevard Brand, Whitlock, Bruxelles, brought me to Anderlecht, Bruxelles at the home of Mr. Gaston Lyned, 434 Chausee de Mones. There I met a co-pilot William ~~KK~~Kosseff who is with me at present. We remained in a room next door to Mons Lyneel who had given this house to the Red Cross and kept coffins there for use in bombardments. Consequently it was fairly safe. Mons. Auguier and Mons Lyneel are well known in the "White Brigade". We also met a Mons Tromme, Rue de Erasmus.

While we were at the Lyneel home he received a letter saying if he did not give 20,000 francs to a Miss Marie Therese Hurts, Stackel, Belgium they would denounce him to the Germans for ~~x~~ having Americans at his home. How anyone found out that we were there is a bit of a mystery, but the fellows in the White Brigade believe that somewhere in the white brigade information leaked out.

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S. 9 (WEA) PERSONNEL

Sept 10, 1944  
(Date)

DECHAMBRE G.P. 2nd Lt. 0682013  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFORT 7  
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Jan. 24 1944

Returned to UK: Sept. 9, 1944

95TH BOMB GP. 335TH Bn. Sq  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT	MOWERS C.H.	DON'T KNOW.
CO-PILOT	RODERICK G.E.	"
NAVIGATOR	D'BOYLE D.W.	MET IN BELGIUM SEPT. 8, 1944
BOMBARDIER	DECHAMBRE G.P.	"
RADIO OPERATOR	GRIFFIN C.	DON'T KNOW
TOP TURRET GUNNER	GEBERT H.C.	"
BALL TURRET GUNNER	CREECH	"
WAIST GUNNER	BIALAS	"
WAIST GUNNER	TOROK A.	"
TAIL GUNNER	WARREN C.	"

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

JAN. 24, 1944 about 10:00 WAVRE, BELGIUM  
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

ONE ENGINE ON FIRE & ONE FEATHERED

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

18,500

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

BOMBARDIER CUT ABOVE EYE, DON'T KNOW NATURE OF OTHERS INJURIES

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

I SAW THE NAVIGATOR, COPILOT, & ENGINEER GO DOWN. CHUTES OPENED

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? I BELIEVE IT BLEW IN THE AIR

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

I SAW SEVERAL CHUTES IN THE AIR BUT DID NOT REACH ANY OF THE CREW

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.

PEOPLE ON GROUND CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN SEVEN OR EIGHT CHUTES. ON 8 TH OF SEPTEMBER I MET MY

(over)  
NAVIGATOR (IN BRUSSELS PEOPLE SAID TWO OF OUR CREW WERE TAKEN PRISONER JAN. 24.

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?

I believe most got out alright But if one believed the people on the ground we must have two killed

Were you wounded?

Four pieces of flak in the face and some across the hands

Were you in German hands?

no  
Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

No

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

Yes

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

NONE OMITTED

What security briefing were you given?

Full

What souvenirs do you still possess?

NOTHING

Home address.

1514 HIGHLAND AVE WILMETTE ILLINOIS  
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.

MEMBERS OF MY CREW

RESTRICTED

1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) DECHAMBRE GERALD P. Signed Gerald P. Dechambre

Rank 2nd Lt. A.S.N. 0-68203 Dated Sept 20, 1943 Place Sulou

Unit 95TH BOMB GP. 325TH BOMB Sq Witness .....



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 Forces;  
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.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)