

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) VANDAM, FRANK W
Rank T/Sgt. A. S. N. 15338378
Unit 95 BOMB GRP-334 S9D.

Signed Frank W. Vandam
Dated September 20 - 1944
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

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 (WEL) PERSONNEL

Sept 20-1944
(Date)

VANDAM, FRANK W. T/Sgt 15338378
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFORT 3
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: JAN. 29-1944

Returned to UK: Sept. 20-1944

95 BOMB GRP-334 SQD.
(Unit)

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

PILOT Rosentensky - bailed out
 CO-PILOT bailed out
 NAVIGATOR bailed out
 BOMBARDIER bailed out
 RADIO OPERATOR Dead in plane
 TOP TURRET GUNNER Frank W. Vandam - (me, good)
 BALL TURRET GUNNER Dead in plane
 WAIST GUNNER Dead in plane
 WAIST GUNNER Larry Coala - Dead in plane
 TAIL GUNNER William Kiner - Dead in plane -

one of these 4, died in Courtrai, Belgium from injury in march 1944

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. January 29-1944 - west Roosebeek, Belgium

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
It had 3 motors burning & interphone shot up & plane full of holes & no oxygen - nothing

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?
15,000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? yes (5 killed).

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? Pilot, co-pilot, Bombardier & me (engineer) - yes their parachutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? yes exploded & burned.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
yes I saw the other 4 alive about 1 mile from me, I was alone.

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.

yes 5 was dead as the plane went down & one died in Courtrai, Belgium the 5 dead at first listed above I have photograph of their tomb stone but (over) the one who died in Courtrai, I don't know but the organization said one of my crew died from injury in march in Courtrai

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

no examine but I saw it from 200 yards. - it exploded & burned badly. most of it was blown in a chanel nearby.

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?

Were you wounded? *a little - cut deep on the nose*

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.

What security briefing were you given? *briefed intervals*

What souvenirs do you still possess? *a girl made thing for me for mother*

Home address. *503*

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.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 15338378 Rank T/Sgt
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Frank W. Vandam
Unit 95 B Gp

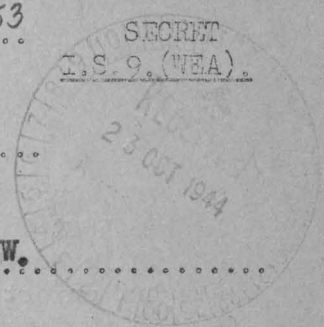
has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)
on 19 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.
He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

Robert Bacon
Major 2/Lt. Ac.

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED 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 Brook
Street, London.



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

EVADED CAPTURE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (Name of Country) Belgium

For all Personnel

- 1. No... 15338378... Rank... T/Sjt... Name... Vandham, F.W.
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions)... 3 missions
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details... No, cut on nose
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force)... 334 Sqn
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force)... 94 Gp... 6. Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc)... Top turret gunner
- 7. Date of Birth... 18 Feb 24... 8. Length of Service... 22 mths
- 9. Peace time occupation... Machinist... 10. Private Address...
503, Center St., Maysville, Kentucky
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph?... Dog tags
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language?... No

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... Engineer Gunner
- 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... Rosentinsky Rozmetinsky Baled out safely Andrew 1st Lt 0743099
- CO-PILOT... Unknown Warner, Philip B. 2d Lt 0680128 R+D
- NAVIGATOR... Patterson, Omar 2d Lt Evaded 0739049 R+D
- BOMBARDIER... Unknown Beck, Jennings 2d Lt 0673453 R+D
- RADIO OPERATOR... Robert Buchanan Dead T/Sgt 39026968 KIA
- TOP TURRET GUNNER... Frank Vandham Evaded Narrator
- 31132366 KIA TURRET GUNNER... Charles Stared Dead STAUDT, Sgt 16144908
- WAIST GUNNER (R.)... R.A. Kwickstrom Dead Kwickstrom, Ragnar Sgt KIA
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)... L. Esala, Larry Dead Sgt 37221477 KIA
- TAIL GUNNER... W. Kiner, Wm F Dead 13132315 Sgt KIA
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure... B.17, England, Horham, 29 Jan 44.
0730 hrs.
- 18. Where and when did you come down?... W. Roosebreak, Belgium, 29 Jan 44, at 1200 hrs.
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?...
Burnt my parachute, and hid my mae west under some straw.
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?...
Crashed and burned after explosion in mid air.

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date... 19 Sep 44

- Attached:
- Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No.5

Robert H. Bacon, 2/Lt A.C

Disposal: Returned to Unit

Distribution: I.S.9 (WEA) 2
 12 Army Gp 2 (less C)
 9 AF 1

On Jan 29, 1944, we were going to bomb Frankfurt, Germany. Before we left England our fuel gage was inoperative, but we went on our route. While we were over the target our bomb doors opened and the bombs went, but unfortunately the doors would not close again electrically. I tried to find the hand crank that would wind the doors up, but found that this crank had not been left in the plane. The result that with the bomb doors open, and the fuel gauge faulty we didn't know whether we should be able to make the return trip, so we had to fall out of the formation.

We tried to make our journey across Belgium to reach Dover, but were intercepted by 7 F.W. 190. One came in at 6 o'clock level, but the tail gunner did not reply. I think he was dead. I was watching in the turret, when some one pulled on my leg, and said 'let's go'

I looked out and saw that the wings had been shot up and the engines were on fire, so I jumped. The plane crashed about 200 yds from where I landed, and with a loud explosion. I saw the other parachutes coming down. I ran away and hid in a barn.

The next morning I went to Ooighem and a man gave me some help. He hid me for 8 days. Then I went to Hulste for 15 days, then to Kurne for 6 weeks. On the 29 Mar I went to Heule and there I was kept for 6 months, where I was liberated by the Americans.

I was lectured on escape and evasion in England and States commencing Nov. 43. I used my aids box.

I was uncertain of the colour of my purse, but the contents were given to the organisation.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9WEA/6/286 / 1753

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

No. 15338378 Rank T/Sjt Name Vandham, F.W.

Date of Interview 19 Sep 44

The following people helped me:

Doctor Carlas Backelaedt,
Harelbechstraat 6,
Cuerne, (Courtrai) (6 weeks)

M. Georges Joyes,
69, Courtraistraat,
Heule, (Courtrai) (6 months)
Belgium



Kuurne, 14 September 1944

Dear Frank,

I have been to the Wevelgem Cemetery yesterday and found there for the month of January the following graves: *of US airmen*,

24.1.44.

First Lieutenant D. A. MC. Lean O. 682886 T. 43.

Staff Sergeant Thomas L. Durkin 32535468 T. 43

Staff Sergeant John F. Inman 17169450

Staff Sergeant E. Canard 12164765

29.1.44

X Sergeant Larry R. Esala 37271477 T.43

Sergeant Robert Buchanan 390226968 T.43

Sergeant Charles Stared 16144908 T.43

X Sergeant Kiner J.R. William 132315 T.43 O.

Sergeant R.A. Kwickstron 31132368 T.43 A.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. J.

*my 5 boys
dead from
my airplane
1 more dead in
Kortrijk, which
is same as
Courtrai.*

TELEFOON : KUNSTEN 136
KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN
AMSTERDAM
KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN
KUNSTEN 136

TELEFOON : KUNSTEN 136
ALAS EN ZADEN

KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN
KUNSTEN (P.I. KONINK)
104

DE GROOT VAN NIES & CO