E&E # 649 INTERROGATOR ~~Forsythe~~

Jennings B. Beck (Name) 2d Lt (Grade) 0-673 4 (ASN)

334 (Squadron) 95 (Group) 29 Jan 44 (Missing in action) 15 Ma (returned to

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

1. Happy birthday. Bep
2. The two cases are safe. ~~French~~

Language: 1. Flemish 2. French

Time: Saturday eve.

Person requesting message 1. Mme. Delportere 2. M.

Date of contact with this person Feb 1944

Description of this person:

Services rendered:

E&E # 649 INTERROGATOR Forsythe

Jennings B. Beck	2d Lt	0-673453
(Name)	(Grade)	(ASN)

334	95	29 Jan 44	15 May 44
(Squadron)	(Group)	(Missing in action)	(returned to duty)

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

1. Happy birthday. Bep
2. The two cases are safe. ~~French~~

Language: 1. Flemish & 2. French

Time: Saturday eve.

Person requesting message 1. Mme. Delportere & 2. M. & Mme. Decone

Date of contact with this person Feb 1944

Description of this person:

Services rendered:

Beck

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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

1-29-44 - 12:35 - Holst, Belgium

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? from wings to tail 20mm holes Right wing on fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 3500 ft

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

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

Pilot - Roznetinsky Co-pilot - Warner, Nav. - Beck
Bomb - Patterson - all chutes open

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? yes

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

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. No

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 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 reasons for his opinion? 6 - members dead. - 5 buried

Next day - Co-pilot's opinion, 3 - escaped - together in Spain
1 - evading - bailed out wasn't captured.

AG 383.6 Hq ETOUSA 19 October 1942

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) Jennings B. Beck Signed Jennings B. Beck

Rank 2nd Lt. A.S.N. 0-673453 Date May 15, 1944

Unit 95th Bomb. Gp. Witness Harry W. Porter
Col. G.S.C.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 649
EVASION IN ~~XXXXXX~~ BELGIUM-FRANCE

18 May 1944
(Date)

Jennings B BECK, 2d Lt, 0-673453
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: FRANKFURT

334 Bomb Squadron, 95 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

MIA: 29 January 1944
Arrived in UK: 18 May 1944

12 missions

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-743099	1st Lt	Andrew ROZNETINSKY		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-680128	2d Lt	Philip B WARNER		E&E #
NAVIGATOR	0-673453	2d Lt	Jennings B BECK		~~E&E #~~ NARRATOR
BOMBARDIER	0-739049	2d Lt	Omar M PATTERSON, JR		E&E # 648
RADIO OPERATOR	39026968	T/Sgt	Robert B BUCHANAN		KIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15338378	S/Sgt	Frank W VANDAM		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	16144908	S/Sgt	Charles T STAUDT		KIA
WAIST GUNNER	31132368	S/Sgt	Ragnar A KVICKSTROM		KIA
WAIST GUNNER	37271477	Sgt	Larry R ESALA		KIA
TAIL GUNNER	13132315	Sgt	William F KINER, JR		KIA

Were you wounded?

Comment on 649:

More dividends on parachute lectures. Good work in quick hide-out and wearing GI shoes

BECK, J.B. A Report

We were returning from Frankfort after completing our mission there. I was navigator in number 5 of the top squadron. Just after we passed ~~over~~ the Belgian frontier ~~into Belgium~~ there was some trouble with the superchargers ~~so that the engines~~ would ~~not operate properly.~~ ~~In the area of~~ Near Hulste we were attacked at 25,000 ft by 5 Me 109's and one FW, ~~Because of our disabled conditinn we were not able to get away. The six enemy aircraft~~ which shot us up to such an extent that we went into a dive out of control. ~~This was at 25,000 feet. The plane caught fire and there was no question of getting it under control.~~ At 3500 feet I bailed out. ~~I saw three others bail out at the same time, but there must have been four, because only half of the crew was found in the plane. I heard later that these five left in the plane were all dead when the plane hit the ground and exploded. They were buried by the Germans.~~ I pulled my rip cord as soon as possible ~~and came down over a house in Hulste.~~ a village. ~~I jerked the chute so that I would not land on the house, this swerved me~~ and maneuvered my chute missing a into a ditch, ~~by the side of the~~ house. Many people saw me come down but none of them approached me when I landed, although they did smile. In landing I received a few minor scratches and a sprained ankle which hampered my movements considerably. As soon as I touched ground I removed the chute but kept ~~the~~ my mae west because ~~I didn't want to take more time than necessary to get out of the vicinity.~~ I wanted to get away in a hurry. I ~~went~~ took off through a field to a farm and hid in a haystack. I must have been seen entering the haystack because two young Belgians ~~about twenty years old~~ came to me. They brought coveralls which I put on after taking off all my flying equipment, which They buried ~~this for me~~. I put my escape equipment in the pockets of my coveralls. I ~~had on~~ was wearing GI shoes. In return for their kindness I gave them my GI watch. They then pointed out the road to the south and left me. I walked along the road and passed the house where I had landed. There were a lot of people around there still, and some German soldiers ~~guarding~~ were guarding the chute of another member of the crew who had come down on the opposite side of the house. I passed by unnoticed ~~because of my disguise~~, although I had to try to hide ~~the~~ my limp ~~from the sprained ankle~~. Further down the road I passed a ~~Frenchman~~ man on a bicycle who motioned me to follow him. He took me to his house where I stayed for four days. I was then taken to another house in the village from where my journey was arranged.

Shot down by "fighters"

Bails out

Hide out

Immediate help

(over)

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

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.,.....)

a. Airfield in Courtrai with about 40 planes (Me 109 and FW 190).
(~~Personal~~ Observation.)

b. Barbed-wire factory at Sweveghem making barbed-wire and submarine cable. Factory has one immense smoke-stack. It is next to a power plant with three smaller smoke-stacks.
(Hearsay.)

c. Main railroad roundhouse in Courtrai next to wood factory making collapsible huts and glider parts. The factory workers stop at 1800. Allied bombers have been bombing passenger station which does no harm to railway system.
~~Reliable.~~ (Hearsay)

~~Frank~~
d. French underground ~~xxxx~~ says that the Germans have mined the entire city of Paris and that they will blow it up when they evacuate. The mining has been done at night with great secrecy so that very few know about it.
~~Rumor and~~ (Hearsay.)

e. Large airfield south of Toulouse. Some sort of large detention camp at Toulouse. Majority of German troops in interior of France young boys or old men.
~~Personal~~ (Observation.)

f. Gestapo creating bulk of trouble in Belgium; German soldiers rather decent to inhabitants. In France both Gestapo and Army are actively engaged in annoying the populace. Also in France there is a great hatred against all those who have collaborated with the Germans; almost every man has a list of those he is going to liquidate when the invasion starts. Great admiration for Russia throughout France, and ~~slight~~ disgust with Anglo-American procrastination. There is no political unity in France. The majority of the population is engaged in some sort of anti-German activity.
(Hearsay.)

g. In Lerida, Spain, there were several German officers in uniform getting on well with the Spanish officials.
~~Personal~~ (Observation.)

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- Beck

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".

Horlicks tablets. No

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. No

Milk (tube). No

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). Coming over mountains

Halazone tablets (water purifier). —

Matches. — somking

Adhesive tape. No

Chewing gum. — mountains

Water bottle. mountains

Compass. No

Sewing kit. No

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? Benzadrine tablets

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

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?

Fresh candy

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse? Yes
State color of stripes and letters. Red.
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse? Yes

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones? Yes - France & Belgium.

Compass. —

File (hacksaw). —

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. French 1800 Francs
How did you spend the money? —

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Gave them away

Compass. lost

File (hacksaw). lost

Surplus currency. Spent

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? 4

b. Did you use them? No

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Yes
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. 95th Bomb Gp., Dec. 1, 1943.

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?

Appendix D

Aids box: Used benzadrine, matches, chewing gum, and water bottle while crossing mountains.

Purse: Carried red purse, from which I used the maps of Belgium and France; ~~and~~ the money used to pay guide.

Photographs: Carried 4 but did not use them.

Lectures: Heard E&E lectures at base; found them useful.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. J. B. Beck, 2nd Lt 0-673453
2. Decorations. Air medal
3. Unit or Squadron. 334th Sqn, 95th Bomb Gp
4. Division (Army) or Group. 95th Bomb. Gp.
5. Date of Birth. Nov. 8, 1922
6. Length of Service. 2 yrs. 4 months.
7. Private Address. 744 Prindle St., Sharon, Pa.
8. Job as civilian. Telephone Co.
9. From what field did you take off? Horham, 95th Bomb. Gp
10. Take off time. 07:00
11. Date and target. 1-29-44 Frankfort
12. Where did you land? Belgium
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes
14. What was your position in aircraft? Nav.
15. Were you wounded? Sprained ankle when I came down
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? No.
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? No
18. Did you have Identity Papers? French Identity Papers.
19. 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 experiences. Where and when?
Yes Gibraltar - English - No.
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to when? No
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? Yes. - Gibraltar - May 15, 1944
22. Date of arrival in Spain. March 28, 1944.
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. May, 15, 1944.
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. Gibraltar, May 17, 1944
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. Bristol, May 18, 1944

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.

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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.

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) Jennings B. Beck — Signed Jennings B. Beck
Rank 2nd Lt — A. S. N. O-673453 — Dated May 18, 1944
Unit 334th Sqn. 95th Bomb Gp — Witness John Forsyth 2Lt, CAC

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

1. Complete description of everything that happened in plane before jump.

2. Description of jump and landing.

3. Description of what you did with your equipment.

4. Tell story of experiences up to time you met the person who put you in contact with organization.

   DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU AT ANY TIME.
   DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.
   DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

5. How you crossed Pyrenees (General Location)

6. Your experiences in Spain.

Suggestions for others.

If there is some helpful incident that happened after you were picked up, do not mention it until it has been discussed with M. I. S. Interrogator.

Richard R. Nelson

RICHARD R. NELSON
Major, AC

12 Missions

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 649
EVASION IN

May 18 1944
(Date)

Jennings B. Beck 2nd Lt 0-673453
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

334th 95th
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: Frankfort

MIA: Frankfort 1-27-44

Arrived in UK:
May 18, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	Roznetinsky A. 1st Lt	Rumored headed for coast of Belgium	
CO-PILOT	Warner, P.B. 2nd Lt	Escaped to Spain - Alhamd	
NAVIGATOR	Beck, J.B. 2nd Lt.	O.K. in U.K.	
BOMBARDIER	Patterson, O.M. 2nd Lt	OK. in U.K.	
RADIO OPERATOR	Buchanan, R.B. T/Sgt.	Dead - Rumor	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	Vandam	Rumored dead	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	Staudt Charles S/Sgt.	Dead - Rumor	
WAIST GUNNER	Kvickstrom, R.A S/Sgt	Dead - Rumor	
WAIST GUNNER	Esala	Dead - Rumor.	
TAIL GUNNER	~~Esala~~ Kiner	Dead - Rumor.	

Were you wounded? hurt ankle when I hit ground

On 29 Jan we were returning from the completion of our mission over Frankfort.

We were shot down in Belgium over the town of Hulste. Five of the crew bailed out, the other five were dead when the plane hit the ground and exploded. I landed next to a house but no one came over to me even though there were people around who had seen me come down. I took off my chute and went across a field to a farm; I did this with considerable difficutly because I had sprained my ankle in landing. I hid in a haystack. Two Belgian boys must have seen me go into it because they came up to me with coveralls. I put these one. They took my flying equipment and buried it. I gave them my watch. They then showed me the road to the south. It led by the house from which I had started. There were German soldiers there, but I was not stopped; from my dress that probably assumed that I was a native.

After walking by the house where I landed I met a girl on a bicycle. She motioned me to follow her. I did so. On the way we passed a man who told me that I could trust her. She took me to her house, which was on the outskirts of Ingelmunster. Her name was Elsa Callens, she was about 19 years old. In the house lived her mother and a younger brother about 14. Her father was, I think, a baker. He was in a prison camp in Germany for political reasons. I spent the afternoon in her house, while she went to see some people about getting help. That evening she took me into Ingelmunster. I was disguised as a girl with a skirt, a kerchief over the head and lipstick. We went to the house of a couple about fifty years old. My ankle was still hurting me, but I thought that it would get better. I stayed the night in this house while Elsa went back to her house. The next morning she returned with a butcher boy about 19 called Emile. He had a bicycle. I was put on the bicycle and we three went to another house in Ingelmunster, this one occupied by a couple about 30. They bathed my foot which was now about three times normal size. I noticed that I was being moved around so much because the people didn't want anyone to become suspicious. The Germans made no bones about shooting people who aided evaders. I stayed in this house all day. During the afternoon the ex chief of police of Ingelmunster came to see me. He spoke English and told me that I could trust all the people that I was with. That evening Emile took me to Roulers by bicycle to the house of an old lady of 70 who lived with her sons of 30 and daughter of 25. At the house there was also a well-to-do lady with her husband, both about 45. She spoke English. She told me that they were all afraid and asked me if I knew anyone who could help me. I stayed in this house for 4 days. The English-speaking lady came to see me every day. At the end of this time Emile, Elsa and another young girl arrived with bicycles and took me back to Ingelmunster to meet the White Brigade. This was the name by which the underground in that area was known, or it may have been the name used throughout Belgium. I was taken to a farm house occupied by an old couple of 70. There were two sons around 30 who were members of the White Brigade. With

them were two other men also belonging to the organization. They told me to say when I got back to England that the White Brigade is still operating. The Germans are the Black Brigade. I stayed in the farm house for two days. Then an English speaking man arrived. He told me I was to be taken to Courtrai where I would meet Patterson. He put me in a Red Cross ambulance. I went in alone with the driver, a girl. She took me to a rendezvous in Courtrai where I was picked up by two young girls, named Wendelsmitt. They had been keeping Patterson. They took me to the house of Mme. Delportere where I found Patterson. From here on my account is the same as that of Patterson.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

649

DATE: 19 May 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, BENSON H. EDWARDS, Capt., AC, 0-746318

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

JENNINGS B. BECK, 2nd Lt., AC, 0-673453

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

Benson H. Edwards

Jennings B. Beck

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as JENNINGS B. BECK, 2nd Lt., AC, 0-673453 (334 Bomb Squadron - 95 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. P. [illegible], SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

John Forsyth
2d Lt, CAC