

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 3 March 44

Date arrived in UK: Aug 18, 44

JONATHAN PEARSON 2nd LT. 0-692337
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

2 (No. of missions)

335th 95th
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions) Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT RODNEY P. ROEHM
CO-PILOT DAVID F. WOLTER
NAVIGATOR JONATHAN PEARSON — BACK IN U.K.
BOMBARDIER DONALD R. EGAN
RADIO OPERATOR THOMAS L. YANKUS — " "
TOP TURRET GUNNER CHARLES P. STRACKBINE — SAW HIM JUMP (PROBABLY HIM)
BALL TURRET GUNNER EUGENE PURNELL
WAIST GUNNER JOHN P. WEST
WAIST GUNNER FLOYD NOULLET
TAIL GUNNER EMORY T. KESTERSON — FOUND HIS CHUTE IN TREE

Decorations: NONE

Date of Birth: APRIL 29, 1920

Private Address: 7 WASHINGTON AVE., SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Length of Service: FROM MAY 14, 1942

Job as Civilian: JOURNALIST.

From what field did you take off? Take off time. HORHAM — 6:30 AM.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? DESTROYED RADIO FLIMSY
Were you wounded? Give details. NO ASKED BOMBARDIER TO BLOW UP GEE

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? Yes.

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

No
Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

No
Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

No
Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

No
Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *18 Aug by air from T2 Ship*

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

ALFRED WICKMAN - NAVIGATOR.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

PEARSON 2nd Lt. 0-692337
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

AUG. 19, 1944
(Date)

95th Bomb GP. 335th Sq.
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

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

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

MARCH 3, 1944 AT 4:15 PM. NORTHWEST OF SANQUANTIN

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

NO DAMAGE UNLESS TOKIO TANKS HAD BEEN HIT BY FLAK.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

8000 FT

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

NO

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

RADIOMAN NAVIGATOR (CHUTES OPENED) ALSO ONE OTHER

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? CHUTE SEEN FROM BELOW.

DIDN'T SEE IT.

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

RADIO OPERATOR WAS O.K.

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?

If the plane crashed NO 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.

NO

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

ALL UNHURT. TAIL GUNNER SHOULD HAVE ESCAPED, AS HE LANDED 100 yds. FROM US IN A WOOD.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

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 BOXa. 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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *DURING THREE DAYS WALK.*

Matches.

Adhesive tape. *FOR BLISTERS*

Chewing gum.

Water bottle. *AS A PURSE FOR 3 MONTHS*Compass. *SEVERAL TIMES FOR ORIENTATION.*Sewing kit. *MANY TIMES DURING 5 MONTHS.*d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *UNDERGROUND TOOK IT.*

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?

*RAZOR!! MORE PALATABLE FOOD. WE HAD NO CHOCOLATE.*2. PURSEa. Did you carry a purse? *YES*
State color of stripes and letters. *RED*
If NOT, State why not.b. Did you use the purse? *SOME*

(over)

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

Mps. Which ones? **NORTHERN FRANCE.**

Compass. **YES**

File (hacksaw). **NO**

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. **FRENCH - FOR**
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-
BUYING BREAD + WINE + FOR GAMBLING.

Mps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency. **NONE**

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? **SIX**

b. Did you use them? **YES**

5. LECTURES

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

AT KEARNEY, NEBRASKA JAN. 1, 1944

b. Did you find the lectures of value? **SOME.**

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

**YES - TELL THEM HOW FEW GERMANS
THERE REALLY ARE + HOW GOOD THEIR CHANCES
OF ESCAPE ACTUALLY ARE. IF THEY ONCE
ESCAPE FROM AREA WHERE THEY FELL. TELL
THEM
THAT 9 of 10 Frenchmen will
help them. We never knew that.**

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 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) JONATHAN PEARSON

Signed Jonathan Pearson

Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-692337

Dated Aug. 17, 1944

Unit 75th Bomb GP. 335th

Witness _____

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Lt. Pearson and Cpl. Yankus.

Pearson and Yankus came down about 30 kms. N W of ST QUENTIN on 3 March 1944. They made their way with occasional but unidentifiable helpers as far as IVILLERS (10 kms N E of SENLIS). There a young woman gave them food and directed them to a house where they found a young Pole, his sister, and brother-in-law. The Pole called in an English-speaking woman who interrogated the Americans, and then he took them to a hotel in ~~VERBERIE~~ VILLENEUVE SUR VERBERIE for the night and the next day to SENLIS to the home of M. LEON CRETEUR (married and has his daughter and her husband, NINON and BERNARD BINDER, living with him). Pearson and Yankus lived in this house from 8 March until 7 May, ~~and~~ and were then taken to Mlle. MARGUERITE GRONIER of the SECOURS NATIONAL in SENLIS. They remained with her until 1 June. During their stay in SENLIS they were helped by the following people:

M. DEKATTWA, head of the organization in SENLIS.

JULES FOSSIER and his wife MARGUERITE. FOSSIER is a gendarme; his wife had been educated in England.

M. & MME. LOUIS CHARPENTIER and their son, RENE.

MME. CORBIE, who worked with FOSSIER in the organization.

JACQUELINE CABRE and her mother, 60 RUE DE CHATELIE.

On 3 June FOSSIER took Pearson and Yankus to CHANTILLY where he turned them over to PIERRE, also called PEDRO, a man about 24 years old who wore thick spectacles. They were joined by two English and one Canadian evaders. The whole party was taken by PIERRE to a bicycle-shop in PARIS and thence to a florist's shop across the street. (Both shops are near to Les Invalides. From here a girl guided them to an apartment where they met PHILIPP and VIRGINIA. They remained in this apartment one night, were then moved to another apartment for a night, and on 5 June were taken by ANNA MARIE and another woman to CHATEAUDUN by train, and then to the farm of M. GAY near CLOYES. Here they remained until 10 June when PIERRE GUILLAUMIN, a young man who stayed with them thereafter, led them to the camp in the forest where they met LUCIEN. They remained in the first camp until 24 June when they were transferred to the second camp about 10 kms S, near BUSLOUP, where JEAN was in charge. The forest ranger who supplied food for the camp is named MARCEL RIDAU. The story of Pearson and Yankus from this point is the same as that of F/O S. K. Barr.

Cherius