

1345 Claudia: Have you E&E Report
6/9/45 - Cont. Rounding

Lt. Picard called re:

S/Sgt George M. Avdek

16088997

E & E 2131

MIA 9 Aug 44

Ret UK 6 Dec 44

Info forwarded by
phone
7/9/45
by Cont. R.

Lt. from states inquiring about
Silver Star for his activities in
underground. He claims he was
promised citation by Interrogators.

What is status of citation?

If none promised; Is there evidence
he deserves one. Sufficient
evidence to initiate citation action?

Call Lt Picard at Wake King Ofcs 539

5/10/45
L.H.S.

671
CONFIDENTIAL

2737

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 16088997 Rank S/Sgt NAME (print) GEORGE M. AVDEK

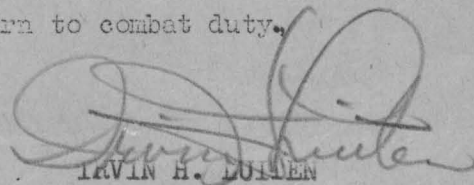
CLASSE ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOWING UNIT 445 Bomb Grp, 701 Sqn, 8th AAF

has been fully/~~thoroughly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA)
on 5 Dec 1944, has signed a Security Certificate, and
is not considered suspect.

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

Security reasons ~~do~~/~~xxx~~ do not/ exist preventing his return to combat duty.

He was a ^{and} PW/EVADER/ for a period of 4 mmo. days.


IRVIN H. LUIDEN

Maj, Inf

REMARKS:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF MI9
OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW & X DET. - MID ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

63 Brook St. London (don't show ^{names})

No names - people - city - ^(S-2)
(A-2) only

Hotel -

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

ed 2737
Dyrol

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 supercedes 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.

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) GEORGE M ANDER
Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 16088997
Unit 201 Sgd. 445 Bomb Gp.

Signed George M Andrik
Dated Dec 8, 1944
Witness [Signature] 1/27 ac.

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

RESTRICTED

No. 60

S E C R E T

ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
APO 633
Office of the Commanding General

300.1

.....
: S E C R E T :
: Auth CG, USSTAF :
: Init EV :
: Date _____ :
:.....

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel Concerned.

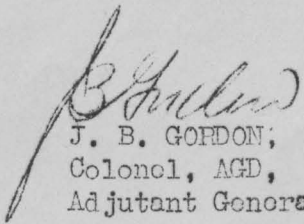
6 December 1944
(Date)

1. PAC in confidential instructions of CG, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, APO 633, the following O and EM WP with the least possible delay to the UK; reporting upon arrival to Dir of Int, Hq, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, APO 633, for dy.

S/Sgt G.M. Avdek, 16088997

2. The above named O and EM having recently returned from a MIA status have been identified insofar as possible thru interrogation by IS-9 (WEA) G-2 SHAFF in accordance with security regulations.

By command of Lieutenant General SPAATZ:


J. B. GORDON;
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

S E C R E T

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

8/12/44
(Date)

Ardek, George M. Sgt 16088997
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Sharbraken 15
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Aug 9, 1944

Returned to UK: 6/12/44

445th Bomb Gp. 701st Bomb Sq.
(Unit)

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

PILOT William Howell - bailed out

CO-PILOT Thompson (E)

NAVIGATOR 3

BOMBARDIER None - we had nose gunner bailed out

RADIO OPERATOR Barney Stamp (2)

TOP TURRET GUNNER Bernard Gordy (2)

BELL TURRET GUNNER None

WHAIST GUNNER Murphy, Vance - bailed out

WHAIST GUNNER Kanyak, John - bailed out

TAIL GUNNER George M. Ardek - escape & evaded

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

Aug 9, 44 Near Hombourg - France

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

Hit by Flak

No

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

18,000 -

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

Think one was hit in neck by Flak

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

All believed to have bailed - saw 4 chutes open

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Yes - (was told)

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

Saw pilot captured by German soldiers

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.

2 were taken prisoners - one hit by flak
2 were shot trying to escape - others unknown

(over)

I was given this information

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?

all bailed out — 3 are believed to be in hiding yet.

Were you wounded?

No

Were you in German hands?

Yes

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

No

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

Yes — to (G-2)

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

Alfred Tillung (Family)

What security briefing were you given?

In England Paris

What souvenirs do you still possess?

None

Home address.

1249 Peck St. Muskegon, Michigan

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

Howell, William
Gordy, Bernard

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

(3)

Kanyak, John
Murphy, Vance

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

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France.....For all Personnel

1. No. 16088997..... Rank S/Sgt..... Name AYDEK, George M......
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal w/cluster; 15 missions.....
3. Were you wounded? Give details... No.....
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 445 Bomb Gp, 701 Sqn.....
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 8th AAF..... 6. Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc) T/Gunner.....
7. Date of Birth 22 July 1922..... 8. Length of Service 2 years.....
9. Peace time occupation Student..... 10. Private Address 1249 Peck St, Muskegon, Michigan.....
1. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dog-tags, 12 photos.....
2. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Russian, Polish.....

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 T/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 | <u>2nd Lt. William Howell, Wm L 0761102</u> | <u>Captured</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| CO-PILOT | <u>2nd Lt. Thompson</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>Doesn't know name Mibruet, Michael 2034-0712459-P/W</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>N/Gunner; doesn't know name Watson, Dale R-307 20724803</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>S/Sgt Barney Stemp R+D</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | <u>1505</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt Bernard Gordy 36479995</u> | <u>Baled-out (believed)</u> | <u>P/W</u> |
| TAIL TURRET GUNNER | | | |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>Sgt. Vance Murphy 6299220</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | <u>Sgt. Jim Kanyak 13060299</u> | <u>Baled-out</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>Narrator</u> | | |

7. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure Aug 9, B-24, 0900; Tibney Field, England.....

8. Where and when did you come down? Near Ht. Hamburg, Alsace-Lorraine; captured immediately, escaped same day.

9. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Captured.....

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Don't know.....

Returned to USSTAF

Interviewed by I.S. 9 (WEA)

Date 5 December 1944

I grade this escape No. 4

Attached:

Appendix "K"

Appendix "C"

Appendix "X"

Irvin H. Luiten
IRVIN H. LUITEN
Major, Inf.

Our primary target was Strassbourg, but we bombed our secondary target which was at Saarbrücken. After dropping our bombload on the target we were hit hard by Flak, and the pilot gave orders to bale out.

I saw the nose gunner go out first, followed by the left waist gunner, the right waist gunner and myself. The pilot came out behind me. Just as long as I dared, I delayed my jump, and as I looked up I saw the pilot behind me.

LANDS IN CREEK

I landed in a creek next to a wooded area in the vicinity of Hellering and noticed a heavily wooded area near me. As I was trying to get my GI shoes loose from my chute where I had tied them, a German major and a corporal, one of them with a machine gun and the other with a rifle appeared running across the field toward me. The major could speak some English and yelled at me to put up my hands. Armed as they were, there wasn't much for me to do except give myself up.

The two directed me across the field, and we walked to a highway about 50 yards off where they had stopped their car. When we reached the road, a large group of young French boys had gathered there. The major asked me what rank I held, and I told him. While walking across the field toward the road, I tried to take as much time as possible to give the remainder of the crew a chance to get away. On the road I took up some time by *passing* out my chute and flying boots to some of the Frenchmen, and by requesting that I be allowed to change my shoes. The German major apparently decided that I wouldn't try to get away, for when he got tired of waiting for me to get my shoes changed, he told me to get into a French truck that had stopped by us.

My pilot had come down about a block away and had been captured by some German military police. The major and the corporal got in their car and drove to where the pilot had come down--after first giving the Frenchman in the truck orders to take me with him to my pilot.

HIDES IN BRIAR

When I got in the truck, the Frenchman pushed me ~~down~~ in the seat. He drove me past the place where my pilot was being held under guard, stopped the truck and motioned for me to run to a thick woods to my right. I jumped out and ran as fast as I could into the woods and kept going for about 10 minutes. In the woods I stopped to rest, hiding in some thick briars, as I had been told in escape lectures that the Germans hated to search in these thickets.

After I had caught my breath, I buried my headgear and tore the cord from my heated suit, I could hear no one searching the woods, so I struck off again after locating myself on my escape maps which had not been taken from me. At the other end of the woods I ran into a field where there were some Frenchmen working. I first approached a very old woman, but she apparently did not understand what I wanted. Seeing a younger woman working in the field, I approached her. She directed me to a man who was cutting grain nearby.

HIDDEN IN HOME

I crawled over to him on my hands and knees so that no one would see me; and with use of my phrase card asked him for help. After first going to get his wife to secure her approval, he consented to hide me in the field in some straw. That night he came back and took me to his home in Hellering where he hid me until November 28th when the village was liberated by American troops.

- - - - -

I carried an escape purse with red stripe. At my base in England and also in the US, I was briefed several times on escape and evasion. Spent all but 95 francs for essentials.

DISTRIBUTION:

HQ. I.S.9 (WEA).....2
G-2 COM Z (LESS APPENDIX "C").....1
9TH AAF (LESS APPENDIX "C").....1

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 (WEA)/6/671/2533

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

No. 16088997 Rank S/Sgt. Name AVPEK, George M.

Date of Interview 5 December 1944

1. I did not learn the name of the Frenchman who allowed me to escape from the truck. However, he was a man about 55 years old, five feet four inches in height. The last three fingers on his right hand had been amputated.

2. The name of the family who hid me in Hellingering was:

MONSIEUR AND MADAME ALFRED FILLIUNG
Hellingering les Hamburg-Haut
Moselle 30, France.

The family operates a cafe in Hellingering, which at the time I stayed there, was not open for business. I was hidden in a hayloft above their home. During the last two months I lay in hiding in a special partition that had been built for me. At night I was always invited to eat in the house with the family. During the last month I spent in their home, German soldiers were quartered with them. I received excellent treatment at their hands and never missed a single meal.