

S E C R E T

*gib*

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

Military Intelligence Service

E & E Report

No. 2885.....

Date 22 March 1945

S E C R E T  
Auth:  
AC of S, G-2  
Init: W.A.74  
Date 22 Mar 1945

Prepared by  
PW & X DET

~~Escaper~~  
Evader ..... WALTER R. JOHNSON ..... 1ST LT. ..... 0-814696 .....  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Unit ..... 395 Fighter Sq, 368 Fighter Group .....

Missing in Action 18 March 1945....

Rejoined Allied Forces 20 March 1945

At ..... NEAR BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY .....

INTERROGATOR

.....

*sc*

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

E & E Report No. 2885

Prepared by PW & X, MIS

EVASION IN GERMANY

MAP USED:  
GSGS 4346  
Sheet K-50

WALTER R. JOHNSON, 1st Lt, O-814696

MISSION

The narrator took off from strip Y-34, located near METZ, FRANCE, 1500 hours, 18 March 1945, on a close support strafing mission. While strafing a column of enemy tanks his aircraft received a hit from flak in the oil supply. Fire broke out and after a few minutes the propeller froze. Lt JOHNSON bailed out and landed near PHEFFELBACH (7105).

EVADES CAPTURE

Immediately after landing he found a hiding place in nearby woods. The Germans were looking for him but he was not discovered. He slept that night rolled up in his parachute.

ENCOUNTERS GERMAN SOLDIERS

The next morning he could hear U.S. tanks nearby and decided to try and meet them. Walking in a westerly direction at 1600 hours, he encountered two German soldiers who inquired, "American pilot?", Lt JOHNSON gave an affirmative answer. He then declared U.S. troops were all around and that if the pair surrendered he would see that they were well taken care of. One of the Germans threw away a pistol and they started walking.

MEETS U.S. FORCES

They found tanktracks and followed them, Lt JOHNSON carrying a white flag. They met many German soldiers but nobody paid any attention to them. At 2000 hours three more German soldiers joined them after having discarded their rifles. The party came to a village and went to a farmhouse where they got food. The civilians knew that the narrator was an American airman but were not hostile. They slept that night on the farm. At 0900 hours, 20 March, U.S. military police entered the house and Lt JOHNSON was taken to BAUMHOLDER (L 7105) and returned to his unit.

S E C R E T

Lt JOHNSON used his escape aids to great advantage.

DISTRIBUTION:

G-2, Com Z.....	1
USSTAF.....	2
File.....	2

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

2885

at. SC.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. U-317696 Rank 1ST. LT. NAME (print) Walter R. Johnson

CLAIMS ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOWING UNIT 395 FT. Sq. 368 FTR. CG. 9th. AF.

has been fully/briefly interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA)

on 22 MARCH 1945, has signed a Security Certificate, and is not considered suspect.

He should/should not be re-interrogated.

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

He was a ~~PW~~/EVADER/ for a period of 3 days.

Stone Christopher Capt. AC.

IMPORTANT:

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

# 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.

### 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) WALTER R. JOHNSON

Signed Walter R. Johnson

Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. 0-814696

Dated 27 March 1940

Unit 395 300 368 7th A.P.

Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SOS

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# RESTRICTED

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E. & M. REPORT No .....

TOP SECRET  
I.S.9.(WEA).

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

EVASION CAPTURED/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) Germany

For all Personnel.

- 1. No. 0-814696 Rank 1st Lt Name JOHNSON, WALTER R.  
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.; No. of missions) .....
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details .....
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 395 FT. Sq.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 368. GP. 9AF Job. (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) Pilot
- 7. Date of Birth 8 Oct. 1915 8. Length of Service 2 years
- 9. Peace time occupation ..... 10. Private address FOUNTAIN CITY ROUTE 2 BOX 372 Tenn.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? .....
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? .....

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 .....
- 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 .....
- CO-PILOT .....
- NAVIGATOR .....
- BOMBARDIER .....
- RADIO OPERATOR .....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER .....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER .....
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) .....
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) .....
- TAIL GUNNER .....
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure P-47 .....
- 18. Where and when did you come down? near PFEFFELBACH, Germany 1600hrs 18/2/40
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? .....
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? near HUSEL, Germany  
0900hrs 20 March 1940

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)

Date .....

Evaluation of informant's credibility

The narrator took off from strip Y-34, located near Metz, France, 1500 Hrs. 18 March 1945, on a close support strafing mission.

While strafing a column of enemy tanks his aircraft received a ~~flak hit~~ hit from flak in the oil supply. Fire broke out and after a few min, the propeller froze up. Lt. Johnson bailed out and landed near PHEFFELBACH (7105).

Evades capture.

Immediately after landing he found a hiding place in nearby woods. The Germans were looking for him but he was not discovered. He slept that night rolled up in his parachute.

Encounters German soldiers.

The next morning he could hear U.S. tanks nearby and decided to try and ~~contact~~ <sup>(meet)</sup> them. He ~~walked~~ <sup>(ing)</sup> in a westerly direction, ~~about~~ <sup>(at)</sup> 1600 hrs, he encountered two German soldiers. ~~These~~ <sup>(who)</sup> soldiers inquired, "American pilot", Lt. Johnson gave ~~them~~ <sup>(an)</sup> affirmative answer. He then ~~told them~~ <sup>(advised U.S.)</sup> our troops were all around and that if they surrendered ~~to~~ <sup>(the pair)</sup> him he would see that they were well taken care of. One of the Germans ~~reached~~ <sup>(out)</sup> inside his coat and took ~~a~~ <sup>(a pistol)</sup> pistol which he threw away and they started ~~off~~ <sup>(walk)</sup> walking.

Contacts US forces.

They found ~~US~~ <sup>(ed)</sup> tank tracks and ~~decided~~ to follow them, Lt. JOHNSON ~~was~~ carrying a white flag, they met many German soldiers but nobody paid any attention to them. At 2000 Hrs. three more German soldiers joined them after having discarded their rifles. The party came to a village and went to a farmhouse where they ~~were~~ <sup>(got)</sup> given food. The civilians knew that the narrator was an American airman but ~~did~~ <sup>(were)</sup> not ~~act~~ hostile. They slept that night on the farm. At 0900 Hrs. 20 March US military police entered the house and Lt Johnson was taken to BAUMHOLDER (L7105) and returned to his unit.

Lt Johnson used his escape aids to great advantage.

Immech

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Took off from step F 34 near mech  
1500 hr 18 march. 45. mission close support,  
steafing mission. sent in to tanks, steafing 3 or 4 # pass  
hit the oil explosive shell, headed north, ship leaving  
prop. froze, fire stopped bail out 3000 ft. <sup>near PHILIPPELIS BECH (L7105)</sup> had my  
chute, waited for german son in to woods, searching  
party walked by. heard firing all around, that night  
took my chute and bedded down for the night. next  
morning westgate noise, all tanks were nearby  
germans were running around 1600 hr. 19 march two  
german soldiers walked up about 20 ft. away, with  
up to them they said "america pilot" asked them were  
all troops, one of them took his pistol and and threw  
it away, gave me food about 19 hr started off to  
contact our troops, back through the woods, met another  
soldier talked for a while, found tank trail followed  
it, I covered white flag, german knew who I was  
but did not say anything, the german with rifles  
they then then away they joined, 2000 hr at  
Found a village, stayed in house held the civilians  
I was american flyer, given food place to sleep  
at the 0800 hr. american tank went by. 0900 hr. m.p.s  
came in the house then BAUMHOLDER (L7105) escape hit  
way good.