

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

EVANDED CAPTURED ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Name of Country) **France**.....For all Personnel.

1. No. **16101156**..... Rank..... **S/Sgt.**..... Name... **William D. SLENKER**.....
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions)..... **5 missions**.....
3. Were you wounded? Give details... **12 pieces of shrapnel in right leg,**.....
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force)... **369 Bomb. Sqn,**.....
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) **306 Bomb. Gp., 6. Feb. (P.O. Cml., D.S., etc.)** **Tail Gunner.**.....
7. Date of Birth... **29 Apr 1923**..... 8. Length of Service... **2 yrs., 1 month**.....
9. Peace time occupation... **Student**..... 10. Private address... **1912 Mohawk Street,**
Chicago, Ill......
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? **Dogtags and photos**.....
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..... **Tail 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..... **Howard Snyder**..... **1268**..... **Belgians report flown out**.....
- CO-PILOT..... **Lt. George Eike**..... **PW, 22 Apr, Chimay Belgium**.....
- NAVIGATOR..... **Lt. Robert Benninger**..... **" " " " "**.....
- BOMBARDIER..... **Lt. Robert Daniels**..... **PW, wounded in stomach**.....
- RADIO OPERATOR..... **Ross L. Kahler**..... **Killed, wounded and crashed**.....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER..... **T/Sgt. Holbert**..... **Belgians say escaped**.....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER..... **Sgt. Lewis Cowert**..... **Killed, wounded and crashed**.....
- WING GUNNER (R.)..... **Sgt. John Rindroch**..... **PW, 22 Apr**.....
- WING GUNNER (L.)..... **Sgt. John Musial**..... **PW after parachuting**.....
- TAIL GUNNER..... **Narrator**.....
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure... **Fortress, Bedford, 8 Feb 1944,**
0800 hrs., raid on Frankfurt.....
18. Where and when did you come down?..... **Signy le Petit, France, 1200 hrs, 8 Feb 1944**.....
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?..... **French hid them,**.....
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?..... **Yes**.....

Interview by I.S.9. (WEA)

Date... **10 Sep 1944**.....

Attached:

Appendix "B"

Appendix "C"

Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No. 5.

*Robert Bacon***ROBERT BACON****2nd Lt., AC**Disposal:..... **Returned to unit.**.....

Major

DISTRIBUTION:**Hq. I.S.9 (WEA)....2****12th Army Group....2 (less C)****9 AF1 "**

I came down at Signy le Petit, France, at 1200 hrs. 8 Feb 1944.
I was given help at once and finally met the Americans in Chimay at
1700 hrs, 2 Sep 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

1883

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 16101156 Rank SF567.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) WILLIAM O. SLENKER

Unit 306 Bn gp. 369 Sqn.

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

on 10 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

DL H. I. Sam
2/11, CAC
Major

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 Brooks
Street, London.

S E C R E T

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

Sept 11, 1944
(Date)

Slender, William O. S/Sgt. 16101156
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Frankfurt 5
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Feb. 8, 1944

Returned to UK: Sept. 11, 1944

369th Bomb Sq. - 306th Bomb Gp
(Unit)

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

LT PILOT Howard Snyder - Believed to escape - Belge say.

LT CO-PILOT George Eike - P.W. April 22nd.

NAVIGATOR Robert Benninger - P.W. April 22nd.

BOMBARDIER Robert Daniels - Wounded - taken P.W. Feb 8.

RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. Ross Kahler - Killed - Wounded & crashed.

TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt. Holbert - Believed to escape - Belge say.

MAIL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Lewis Cowert - Killed in crash.

W/ST GUNNER S/Sgt. John Musial - Wounded & prisoner Feb 8th.

W/ST GUNNER Sgt. John Pindroch - P.W. April 22nd.

TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. Narrator

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. Feb 8, Cynleptite, France

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

The controls were all shot out - Pilot's compartment on fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 20,000 ft.

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

3 wounded & 2 killed.

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

LT Howard Snyder LT Robert Benninger Sgt. John Musial

LT George Eike LT Robert Daniels Sgt. John Pindroch

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? T/Sgt. Holbert S/Sgt. Slender Narrator
Yes all parachutes opened

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

I saw two other members of the crew later in the night.

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 - people have told me two were killed & eight reached the ground safe.

(over)

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

Have not seen wreckage

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?

I am quite sure the 2 you said two men were killed in the crash & from what I heard later Lt. G. Cike - Lt Robert Binninger Sgt John Pindroch were taken prisoners after hiding in a forest with several other airmen for nearly three months

Were you wounded? *Wounded in the thigh Lt leg - 12 pieces of shrapnel entered from the knee down to the foot.*

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?

Not to give names or place

Jan 12, 1944

What souvenirs do you still possess?

A German flare gun & a few hundred francs

Home address.

1912 Mahawk St Chicago, Ill.

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

*Lt. George Cike Sgt. John Androsch
Lt. Robert Binninger Sgt. John Maciel
Lt. Robert Donelis*

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

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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 Forces;
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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(See Reverse Side)

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1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) Slentker, William O.

Signed William O. Slentker Jr.

Rank S/Sgt. A.S.N. 16101156

Dated Sept 11 Place London

Unit 360th Bomb Group 369th Sqd.

Witness.....

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APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 (WEA)/6/130/853

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

No. 16101156 Rank S/Sgt. Name William D. SLENKER

Date of Interview 10 Sep 1944

I was helped by the following:

Madam Josephine Collet)	These persons hid me during my time in Belgium.
Mlle Gisele Collet)	The address of all three of them is:
Mlle Paula Collet)	12 Rue Van Humbeck
		Chimay, Belgium

F. Delports		
7 Rue Van Humbeck	-	Chief of roganization.
Chimay, Belgium		