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ESCAPE - EUROPE

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I. INTRODUCTORY NOTES

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A. General - Prisoners of War

1. During the last war
  - a. 107,000 prisoners of war escaped from Germany
  - b. 750,000 prisoners were at liberty at one time or another
2. During present war
  - a. Germany holds approximately 5,000,000 prisoners.
3. Duty of every P/W not only to escape but harass the enemy.
  - a. Dec. 31, 1943 - approximately 350 American airmen have evaded in Western Europe
  - b. Approximately 3000 British airmen have safely returned from occupied territory
  - c. Large amount of information brought back
  - d. Amounts to recovery of millions of dollars

B. Contribution to War Effort

1. Information transmitted to Allied H.Q. as a result of evasion, escape and unsuccessful escape.
2. Purpose of escaping.
  - a. Bearing on civilian and military morale.
  - b. Ties up man-power as guards
  - c. Dislocation of normal activities in a countryside when a P/W is loose.
3. Morale
  - a. Loss to country of a valuable soldier
  - b. Possible compromise of security
  - c. Moral injury to prisoner - "Barbed-wire disease"
  - d. Nuisance value and information value to Allies

C. Rules - Duty

1. No such thing as "ethics" toward enemy beyond those sanctioned by the Geneva Convention.
2. Duty of prisoner to escape.
3. War Department forbids giving parole.
  - a. Except for "temporary undertaking" with approval of Senior Officer present.
4. P/W remains in the military service of his country.
5. A parole once given cannot be violated.
  - a. Soldier will be treated as a criminal.

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I. INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- A. During the last war ... 107,000 prisoners of war escaped from Germany. This was a restoration to the Allied forces of over 8 divisions.

Furthermore, at least 750,000 prisoners were at liberty at some time or other during that war. The continual escape attempts, whether successful or not, required many troops to be retained in the rear for guard duty who might otherwise have been in front line service.

During the present war, Germany holds approximately 5,000,000 prisoners. These cause her, by contrast with the figures above, an untold amount of trouble. Even if you have the misfortune of becoming a prisoner, YOU ARE NOT OUT OF THE WAR. Escape, or attempts to escape, are not violations of the Geneva Convention, and the sole penalty for failure is disciplinary punishment. It is, therefore, the duty of every POW to use this means not only to secure his own freedom but also to harass the enemy. One failure should serve as a stimulus for the next effort, until final success is achieved.

Escape attempts, and the preparations therefore, are exciting and provide a stimulus to keep mentally and physically fit.

B. Contributions to War Effort

1. Information: Much information of military value is transmitted to Allied H.Q. as a direct result of evasion, escapes, and attempted escapes.
2. Purpose of Escaping: Even if an attempted escape is unsuccessful, it will constitute important assistance in the War Effort:
  - a. Bearing on civilian and military morale.
  - b. Tying up much man-power as guards rather than as soldiers.
  - c. Dislocation of normal activities in a countryside when a P/W is loose.
3. Morale: Will keep up morale of fellow P/W and counteract---  
"Barbed-wire Disease"

The tragedy of capture lies in:-

- a. Loss to country of a valuable soldier.
- b. Possible compromise of Security (see "Interrogation")
- c. Moral injury to prisoner, known as "Barbed-wire Disease."

To combat "Barbed-wire Disease", which is a sort of stupor or resignation that overcomes prisoners when they have been confined for too long a period.

- d. Our British Allies have set a very high standard in pestiferousness which we will find hard to surpass or equal. They have not only succeeded in being a complete nuisance to the

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## ESCAPE - EUROPE

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES (continued)

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Germans, tying up valuable manpower, but they have also brought back information of supreme value to their government.

- C. Rules - Duty: There is no such thing as "ethics" toward the enemy in regard to escape, beyond those sanctioned by the Geneva Convention.

The following rule is simple and direct:-

"It is your duty to escape at any time and from any place when you, in your judgment, deem it possible. The only exception to this is if you have given your parole."

BUT...

Army regulations read:-

"Don't give your parole. This would prevent you in honor from escaping."

The War Department forbids prisoners to give their parole, except, for a "temporary undertaking" and then only with the approval of the Senior Officer present. This applies equally to all internees and evaders in neutral countries.

Any officer or enlisted man who becomes a P.O.W. remains in the military service of his country. P.O.W. are not casualties who are out of the war. They become members of a new command, operating within enemy territory. It is the duty of escaping prisoners to gather information of military, economic, and morale value. They are warned, however, not to be in possession of firearms, or of any written data that could possibly convict them of spying.

Punishment: A parole once given cannot be violated. A P/W who attempts to escape by breaking his parole, will, on recapture, lose his status as a P/W, and be treated as a criminal by the Germans. If he succeeds in reaching his own lines, he will be subject to Court Martial by American Military Authorities.

## II. WHEN TO ESCAPE

- A. Action after Capture: The possibilities of escape in the early periods of captivity are eight to two as against your chances after arrival at a permanent prison camp.

"...It is immediately after being taken, when you are not known or registered, when the organization is not yet tightened around you, and when the front line or the border (of Germany) is still in proximity, that the possibilities of making good an escape are the greatest..."

Immediately after being captured, there is always a period of confinement in temporary quarters such as a hotel room, a local jail, or a room in a house. The first places of detention will be improvised

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## ESCAPE - EUROPE

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### WHEN TO ESCAPE (continued)

and meagerly guarded, so that an escape opportunity may present itself because of the conditions of capture.

Early Stages: There is a journey, usually by motor truck, to a field H.Q. and later to a point from which the trip to Germany is begun.

Line Troops: The first, or line troop guards, are apt to be inexperienced and/or indifferent, since in a fluid action they cannot be assigned much responsibility.

P/W Guards: Seize every advantage to get away while detention is still in hands of regular line troops...as opposed to specially trained, responsible, P/W guards who conduct latter part of journey to camp.

Capture: Once captured, a P/W becomes a non-combatant and, for purposes of escape, may disguise himself in any uniform or civilian clothing without being considered a spy or in any way increasing the normal penalty in event of recapture. However, the P/W must not carry arms, commit sabotage, or do violence. This applies only to ETO....not to the Pacific Theatre, where the price of recapture is most severe.

Re-Capture: If recaptured, refuse to give enemy any information as to how escape was effected. Do not incriminate helpers; avoid compromising other (future) escapers. Conceal or destroy material.

Searching after Capture - (1) The preliminary search is usually for weapons, documents, and other items. Many places on the person can be found in which to hide your escape aids. Use your ingenuity.

(2) Although the enemy is expert at interrogation, he is not very thorough or bright when it comes to searching. An officer should demand that he be searched by an officer. The enemy will respect him for this and the officer searching is apt not to make too thorough a job of it.

Precaution: - It is often a very smart precaution to have a loose or extra compass in your pocket to serve as a decoy. Frequently you will be asked where you have your escape aids hidden. Let the searcher find this compass: often he will be satisfied that he has found your escape aids.

- B. Chances: There are very many instances of successful escape accomplished in the early states of captivity, which prove that the early "offensive" is most likely to succeed. The sooner it is done, the easier it is.

Naturally, all attempts do not succeed, but no given set of circumstances can prevent escapes by men equipped with determination, nerve, ingenuity, the physical condition and the will-to-escape.

Opportunity knocks more than once. When it isn't knocking, create it, go out and plan it and then put your plan into action.

Don't over-rate the enemy ... just as you don't under-rate him. But on the other hand, don't try to be over-complicated in your schemes. Sometimes the most obvious devices work better than great subtle strategy.

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## WHEN TO ESCAPE (continued)

1. Enroute to Camp: If an attempt is made to jump from a train, always remember to jump from the right side, because the guard, firing from the carriage window, will be forced to fire off his left shoulder.

Remember, however, that there may be another track on the right hand side, and great care must be taken to avoid landing on it.

If there are several prisoners in the compartment and you plan to jump...have them create a disturbance to distract the sentry while you make your jump. Remember to relax and permit your body to roll after striking the ground.

Other instances:- Many P/W have escaped from a train while being taken to the toilet, or out the toilet window itself. Train jumping is a sport to be cultivated and offers many chances of escape.

Often a chance occurs, if marching in column, to do a bolt into a ditch or woods or behind a building, either at dusk or during strafing. Feigning wounds or illness frequently offers opportunities - Pretend lameness or sickness to relax guard's vigilance.

At least one chance to get away from the line troops will present itself. Alertness at this point will save a P/W from later regrets over lost opportunities.

"If you are captured, you may be taken through various intermediate temporary camps to a permanent camp. Escape is easier from these temporary camps and en route. Take advantage of every opportunity to get away during halts on the march or when guards' attention is distracted. Deliberate straggling was a favorite method of the British."

Therefore remember:- The earliest attempts, while in transit from the point of capture to a permanent camp, are most likely to succeed. An early escape has the advantage of taking place before a P/W physical condition has had time to deteriorate from confinement, lack of food, etc.

2. From Camp (Agencies): "P.O.W. Camps", outlines and describes life in the permanent camps, plus the functions of the various committees.

The organized Escape Committee will supply full information regarding ways to escape, necessary equipment, etc.

- a. When you reach the permanent prison camp, report at once to the Senior American Officer. OUT OF DOORS.
- b. You will soon learn that you are neither forgotten nor powerless.
- c. Never give your parole (except for temporary periods to take exercise, go to the dentist, etc.) Giving your parole ties your hands and ours and is contrary to your explicit orders.
- d. If you succeed in your escape from the camp, you may find people who are able and anxious to help you on the outside and particularly in enemy-occupied territories. Never disclose their names nor the fact that you have been helped.

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## III. ESCAPE FROM GERMANY

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A. Preparations

1. Escape from prisoner of war camps is a minor military operation requiring the most careful organization and preparation. No escape is likely to succeed unless it is properly planned and correct preparations made. Time is unlimited, so don't hurry your plans to the point of bungling.

No escape action must be taken without the consent of the Senior Officer of the escape committee in camp. If the committee considers your plan too dangerous, or unlikely to succeed, you will receive neither its indorsement nor its aid, for the obvious reasons that not only do you needlessly risk your life, but also you jeopardize the security of such escape aids as would have been furnished. One unsuccessful escape not only puts the guards on the alert, but gives away details of the manner in which escapes are organized.

2. Arrangements are in existence in every P/W camp. Newcomers, after their security value has been established, are given the opportunity to avail themselves of the knowledge, experience, and escape equipment, by the committees already there.
3. Physical fitness: This is almost the first requisite when planning an escape. Almost all camps provide space for various forms of exercise. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on this aspect of prison life. Too many escapes have ultimately failed because of the escapers' physical unfitness. (Refer to "Feet" in "Evasion - Europe".)
4. Co-operation: Obviously, a certain amount of self-discipline is required of all P/W (especially would-be Escapers.)

In the interest of the successful escape of the largest number possible...there must be the most complete co-operation and co-ordination of all prisoners.

5. Escape: Escape from Germany itself is obviously more difficult than from a German occupied territory, but there is a good chance of getting away and an attempt should be made because of the nuisance caused to the enemy, the experience gained, and the information that can be taken back to a P/W camp if recaptured.

B. Travel1. How to go

- a. Topography: North Germany consists of a thickly wooded plain, intersected by rivers flowing north into the Baltic and North Sea. Central and South Germany are hilly in some parts, mountainous and even more thickly wooded.
- b. Population: Apart from the Rhine Valley and a thickly populated area stretching from the Low Countries through the Ruhr Valley and Saxony to the industrial regions of upper Silesia, Germany is not thickly populated.

Most Germans live in towns or villages rather than isolated farms. The country-side is deserted at night, and an escaper is not apt to meet people even on the main roads.

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## ESCAPE - EUROPE

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### ESCAPE FROM GERMANY (continued)

Flyers shot down over the Ruhr have best chance of obtaining aid in slum sections of cities. Few Nazis live in these sections, which are peopled largely by prostitutes, minor criminals and political dissidents released from concentration camps. Many of the latter category welcome bombing as aiding their cause.

There are some millions of foreign workers in Germany who would gladly help an escaper if they happened to be in a position to do so.

Language: It is advisable, and at times necessary, to know a few words in the language of the country in which the escaper may find himself.

It is particularly necessary to know a few German words for use, for example: when meeting a civilian or a soldier on the road. Get in a salutation first, just as if one had a perfect right to be there, e.g. guten tag (good day), guten abend (good evening), gute nacht (good night), jawohl (yes, or yes indeed), etc.

The inability to speak the language can be supplemented to some degree by knowledge of certain phrases, and a recognition of differences in spelling, which will be encountered on directional signs, for example:-

Köln - Cologne  
Muenchen - Munich  
Aachen - Aix-la Chapplle  
von - place of origin  
nach - destination  
über - via

There are so many nationalities in Germany itself, today, that bad German will not attract undue attention. Several escapers have stated when accosted, that they were Czechs when travelling in Western Germany. Similarly, you might get away with posing as a Belgian, Norwegian, or Frenchman when travelling in Eastern Germany.

- c. Food - Water: You can carry on without food, but not without water. This is a primary consideration and should always be solved first.

Normally the (evader/escaper) has to live on the reserve food in the aids box, plus a minimum of vegetables and fruit gathered from fields and eaten raw. Food is a great difficulty, because it is so scarce in the parts of Europe occupied by the enemy.

It is very much worth while to get a stock of concentrated foods to carry with you. There is not much to be gotten by foraging in the fields, since the inhabitants will already have done that rather thoroughly. Civilians may be able to get a certain amount or to wangle rations for you, but they have hardly enough for themselves in most cases.

Therefore, save all the concentrated food you can, such as chocolate, raisins, etc.

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ESCAPE FROM GERMANY (continued)

- d. Police and Hitler Jugend: In addition to the regular police, there is a body of auxiliary police or rural guards to deal with rebellious and foreign elements. They are mobilized if escaped foreign workers or military evaders are known to be in the neighborhood. They wear brassards and are not in uniform.

Far more dangerous is the Hitler Jugend, or Hitler Youth. This mass of young ruffians enjoy nothing so much as a good search for an escaper. They are to be scrupulously avoided, and can be recognized by the Jugend insignia on their brown shirts.

- e. Clothing: Remember that if caught in civilian clothes you are liable to be taken as a spy. Therefore, retain some part of your uniform or insignia to prove your identity to the enemy.

If civilian clothes are worn, avoid anything conspicuous, since you must not attract attention to yourself. Discard or alter army flying boots or any boot of army pattern. If you cannot obtain local shoes, make yours look as un-military as possible.

If you have to travel in uniform, for lack of other clothing, it must be done at night. When moving by night, never forget that the enemy will put guards on the more important military bridges and roads, which in the daytime may appear to be unguarded.

- f. Methods

1. Cautions - The two methods of travelling in Germany are by foot and by train.

For airmen who are evading in uniform, success depends on physical condition, will power, luck, strict adherence to the rules and, above all, on NOT BEING SEEN.

The safest and surest method - especially for those who do not speak German or do not have good papers, is by foot.

For P.O.W. who have escaped from camps, the same general cautions apply, although their initial condition differs. In any case, an escapee is confronted with the task of making his way, generally solo, to an occupied country in which help can be expected, or to a neutral country.

It is to be remembered that there are no tramps in Germany, that every man is engaged in some occupation. Therefore, it is not wise to look too dirty or dishevelled. For this reason, the new escape boxes contain a small safety razor.

Transient workers looking for odd jobs are also unknown in Germany. If the escapee contemplates travel by day, it is most essential that he appear to have a job.

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ESCAPE FROM GERMANY (continued)

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For example:-

One escaper travelled all the way across Germany with a bulging briefcase under his arm.

Another travelled for ten days pushing a wheelbarrow with a shovel and rake in it.

Foreigners are not allowed out after dark...after the evening curfew they are almost certain to be questioned closely.

If properly dressed, travel by day - if not, travel by night.

2. By Foot

- a. Churches are all built east and west, and are good for checking your direction.
- b. Inasmuch as patrols use trained dogs, most escapees carry a can of pepper, to sprinkle behind them if they suspect they are being trailed.
- c. Sunday is the most dangerous day to travel. On this day, hide in the most inaccessible spot you can find, and avoid hunters and families picnicing in the forests.

Marching - If evading or escaping by foot, do not hurry yourself into a state of physical collapse. Go as slowly as is necessary to keep in good shape. If tired, don't continue. Take the very best care of your feet. Tiredness increases the chances of blundering into the enemy and may undo a lot of previous good work.

Take all possible precautions and use cover and concealment to the best advantage. (Study Fm 21-25) Caution and slowness are the two chief factors when travelling in enemy or enemy occupied territory.

- Stealing a Vehicle - This is ordinarily not recommended, since all vehicles - including bicycles - are registered and licensed by the Germans, who simply requisitioned them all after occupation of each territory. Motor vehicles will normally only be found in the possession of Germans or of their Quislings.

However, if it appears desirable and appropriate to steal one, it is essential to have a well thought out plan, with enough identity papers to warrant using this method of travel. Ensure a sufficient quantity of petrol and make an immediate start after capturing the vehicle.

3. By Train

- a. Passanger trains: Avoid loitering around stations at night, as guards are apt to ask questions.

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ESCAPE FROM GERMANY (continued)

Kept shaved and neat looking, and be as inconspicuous in appearance and actions as possible.

Remember that all important (express) stations have military control at the barriers.

One may not buy a ticket for a destination more than 20-25 kilometers distant without written permission of the police. To attempt to buy a ticket for a long trip without police permission is certain to bring police inquiry.

Express trains are more dangerous to fugitives than locals. Examination is more careful and fugitive is unable to get off train when inspection of his papers impends, as he frequently can on a local.

- b. Freight trains: If you can read German script, it is often easy to travel on a goods train going in the proper direction. The destination of each car or van is in German script on a card at the side of the van.
- 4. By Day: Requires proper clothing, a slight knowledge of the language and proper documents and passes. Can generally be undertaken under the guidance of a civilian of the district who knows the ropes. Sentries will be posted at key points such as bridges, road crossing, and junctions of all kinds.
- 5. By Night: In country districts, the peasants go to bed quite early. You are unlikely to meet anyone after dark, except patrols or watchmen. Remember the curfew in occupied countries, and take advantage of complete blackout in Germany during air-raid periods.

Remember the following points:-

- a. Don't whistle when walking.
- b. If more than one person is travelling together, don't march along in military step while wearing civilian clothes. Adopt the attitude of the local people.
- c. Don't talk English amongst yourselves near buildings or anywhere that you can be overheard.
- d. Avoid towns if possible; if you think you have been noticed going through a town in a certain direction...avoid the next town in case information may have been telephoned ahead and patrols warned to question you.
- e. If you happen to be in an enemy forward area, remember that military information of all kinds is of the utmost value to our forces and that you must get it through. Some "hot" information you may obtain might well effect the battle in that particular area, and be a definite step toward the destruction of the enemy.

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#### IV. RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES

##### A. General Instructions

1. Where to go: Generally speaking, an escaper from Northern Germany should attempt egress via the Baltic Seaports. If in Northwest Germany, head for Denmark or the Netherlands. From Central or Western Germany, head for Belgium or France.

If in Eastern Germany, go either North or South, but never East into Poland. If in Southern Germany, either Switzerland or Yugoslavia; whichever is the closer, should be your destination.

If an escaper finds himself in the middle of Germany about an equal distance from these exits, the best objective is Belgium.

2. Crossing Frontiers: Despite the fact that Axis troops have occupied practically all of the countries of Western Europe, it is very important for the Evader or Escaper to be familiar with the location of the FRONTIERS of these countries. At these FRONTIERS, not only are the German guards more numerous, but also local police and CUSTOMS guards continually patrol. For civilians, there are still CUSTOMS and IDENTITY check-ups to be undergone before crossing a frontier.

Obviously near the Frontier, the German guards increase in number, and the nearer the Frontier, the more strictly is traffic controlled. Therefore, extra vigilance is required.

Find a hide-out, almost on the line, preferably a hillock, from where the crossing point can be observed. Study the Sentries, Patrols and Guardhouses and know when they change guards, etc.

If advisable, stay in the hide-out for two days. Many an Escaper, after a difficult journey, has reached the Frontier, only to be captured and returned to the Prison Camp.

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## RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES (continued)

3. Escape into a Neutral Country: Article 13 of the Neutrality Convention of 1907 provides as follows:- "A neutral power which receives escaped prisoners of war shall leave them at liberty. If it allows them to remain in its territory it may assign them a place of residence."

When a neutral State receives a member of the armed forces of a belligerent into its territory and accepts him as an escaped prisoner of war, he becomes a subject for repatriation, having established a right to freedom.

The neutral State may then grant to the escaper permission either to leave the neutral country or remain in it if repatriation is for the time being physically impossible or for some other good reason, (e.g. state of health).

4. (Note on present war practice--When an escaped prisoner of war reaches a neutral country he will most probably be arrested by the local police for reasons of national security.

The escaped prisoner of war will when so apprehended reveal his true identity and endeavour to establish to the police his case as an escaper from enemy hands, and demand to have access to the American Consul or Military Attache, who will ask the neutral Government for his immediate release from temporary police custody.

When an escaper reaches the American Embassy or Legation, he will be looked after and given clothes, pay, food, and lodging.

The repatriation of an escaper will depend on the possibility of arrangements being made by the American authority (i.e. Ambassador/Minister) in co-operation with the neutral Government.

This is the usual procedure but variations are likely in different neutral countries according to their own particular circumstances and depending upon the extent of enemy influence within them.

B. North

1. Germany to Sweden via Baltic Ports:- There are four large BALTIC Ports, namely DANZIG, GDYNIA, STETTIN and LUBECT, and two small ones, ROSTOCK and WISMAR, at which Swedish ships call.

Swedish ships are recognizable by: funnels painted BLACK; hulls painted GREY above the Plimsoll line and RED below; Swedish colours (YELLOW St. George's Cross on a BLUE background) prominently displayed.

An indication that ships are about to sail is the flying of the "Blue Peter". This is the international code signal and is a square blue flag with a white square in the centre. Have plenty of water.

Carefully survey the dock areas without running the risk of questioning by dock police. After selecting a ship, either sneak on board at night, or join a gang of stevedores loading it.

Remember that all ships, either at dock or at anchor, have look-outs day and night.

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RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVES (continued)

Once on board, find a good hiding place. When a ship is leaving port, it is searched by port authorities. The coal bunkers, being dirty, are usually left to ships' officers and are seldom thoroughly searched.

Excavate a spot as far away from the doors as possible, and be sure to have food and water...especially water.

Remain hidden until the ship is well out of German waters and, if possible, until it is in Swedish waters. Then declare your presence to the ship's captain.

2. Germany - Denmark to Sweden

Danish Frontier: Both German and Danish sentries should be avoided. The frontier runs through bare and open country. It is advisable to get some distance into DENMARK, before seeking help from a Dane, because there are many Germans still living in the most southerly province of DENMARK, which was transferred from GERMANY to DENMARK after the last war and which the Germans have not yet re-incorporated into the REICH.

Conditions: In view of the recent Danish uprising, almost all of Denmark is a military zone. This means that all residents or travellers must have identity cards bearing photographs. There are still many Germans living in the southern province of Denmark.

Attitude: The Danes are all extremely anti-German and pro-Ally, and are very keen to help evaders to escape. Generally speaking, local advice can be obtained in regard to the best methods of escape, food and civilian clothing.

A fairly strong sentiment for the Allies, especially since the country was invaded. Help can be obtained, but don't go to the cities. Stay in the country. Sweden is preferable, but the trip is risky. Two ferries to Sweden: the northern one irregular, due to bombing, and the southern one full of Germans.

Help: Most people under middle age speak a little English, and the best inhabitants to approach are farm hands, doctors, and fishermen. The larger farms are apt to be very helpful. Doctors' cars are marked with a white cross on a black background, and the word "Laege" is marked on the doors of their house. Fishermen are even better than doctors as contacts, and are easier to find. The numerous fishing harbors are not usually guarded by sentries, and any of the fishermen in them would help if discretely approached. They may be able to arrange a passage to Sweden, and it is even possible that they would take an evader straight to the United Kingdom.

Many of the patriotic Danes wear metal pins bearing the Danish flag and are probably trustworthy, but caution should be used in approaching them. The relatively few Danish Nazis wear swastika arm bands. The Danish police, although pro-Ally, are not now in a position to help and might be obliged to give up an evader.

Countryside: The Danish countryside is fairly open, with the population spread evenly over it on small farms. The best hiding places are a farmhouse or barn attached. Coastal and frontier controls are strict, and important railways bridges are guarded by German Soldiers.

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DENMARK TO SWEDEN (continued)

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Routes Out: Try to find a freight car going to one of the Baltic ports. Traffic from Denmark is chiefly consigned to German Baltic ports. If making for Sweden, the best procedure is to leave the train before it arrives at one of these control ports, and then try to stow away in a Swedish Ship.

3. Norway to Sweden

- a. Topography: Escaping from Norway into Sweden presents many hardships of a physical nature, due to the topography of the country.

The best chance normally, is to work your way overland into Sweden, although occasional boats have managed to reach U. K. from the coastal areas. A guide will be needed, and it is well to remember that the northern half of the country is nearly impassable because of snow and high mountains. The most southerly point of Norway is in the same latitude as North Scotland; a third of the coastline is within the Arctic Circle. The whole country is extremely mountainous.

- b. Obstacles: Escape involves three main obstacles:- The weather, the mountain ranges, the Germans and Quislings. The following brief enumeration of facts will cover the problem in a general way:-

Help: The Quislings do not comprise more than 3% of the population; all the rest are glad to help actively. Avoid villages...there is at least one Quisling in each. Officials are nearly all Quislings and are untrustworthy.

The average density of the population of Norway is the lowest in Europe. There are very few towns and not too

many villages except on the main lines of communication. Most of the people outside the few large towns live in self-supporting agricultural settlements, although there are also many isolated farms.

- c. Contact: Your first difficulty in making contact with Norwegians will be that of convincing them that you are not a Gestapo Agent-prevocateur. This may take time, especially in the Islands and mountains, where few people understand English.

In introducing oneself, simply bow or shake hands, and state name, rank, and service clearly. Unless you know Norwegian, speak very slowly and distinctly in English, separating the words carefully and - above all - using no German words.

"Morn" (good-day) is the most useful word with which to greet people. They should not be passed by in silence.

Always avoid the most prosperous dwelling in a village. The man who is in a prosperous or responsible position has much to lose by helping evaders.

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## NORWAY TO SWEDEN (continued)

When accepting assistance, it should be remembered that food and clothing are very scarce. The principal assistance needed will be in the form of clothing, food, and a guide.

- d. Procedure: Endeavor to land in a sparsely settled area (preferably near the Swedish Border) in order to reach a hide-out undetected. If you force-land in the coastal area, go inland as all the coast is guarded. It is best to approach isolated farmhouses for help, toward dusk.

If possible, choose one without telephone wires because, if by some chance the inhabitants are Quislings, there is plenty of time to escape before they put the Germans on the track. The telephone system extends to many of the remotest farms and islands, but the wires are almost invariably carried above ground, so that it is not difficult to avoid houses with telephones.

- e. Hide-out: You will find a barn, all of the same type, near every farmhouse. The best hide-out is in the hay in the lofts, particularly the corners of the hay farthest from the door.

If you know your route and can operate for a distance on your own, hide in the hay at dusk and leave before daylight as, on general principle, it is better not to be seen. On the other hand, if at all in doubt about your route, do not hesitate to ask for help, clothing, food, or a guide.

- f. Weather: The weather is very variable; there is much fog, and it rains part of every day. Never try to get through the mountains in the fog without a guide.

Winter in the greater part of Norway lasts for a long time, with continuous snow cover from December to March.

- g. Clothing: The nights are cold the year round and, in the northern area, some days are bitterly cold even in summer.

If possible to obtain civilian clothing, get browns or greys to blend with the scenery.

Do not wear mustaches, as these are never worn by Norwegian young men. An unshaven or unkept appearance would attract immediate attention in the villages.

Because of the daily rain, a raincoat or poncho is invaluable.

- h. Mountains: The mountain ranges are not only a tough physical hazard, but the Germans post watchers with glasses on the high spots.

Consequently, peaks, ridges, valleys, main roads, and railroads must be most carefully travelled. Skis may be necessary for travel along the sides of hills.

- i. The Germans: They are mainly concentrated in the towns and near harbors, railways, main roads, and industrial plants. For example, OSLO and the surrounding area are especially dangerous.

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## NORWAY TO SWEDEN (concluded)

German troops may also be expected in large villages at the head of Fjords, in the coastal areas, and in other positions where a watchpost is essential.

They may be billeted in a farm or requisitioned house close to their post, or in the local school. But they scarcely ever move far from their posts, except on organized exercises or during searches, and the general effect of an alarm is to cause them to concentrate at their places of duty. In the mountains and on most of the islands the chances of meeting a German are fairly remote.

- j. Norwegian-Swedish Frontier: The frontier is marked in the wilder regions by heaps of rocks at intervals of about a mile, so placed that the view to the north and south is unobstructed. In the forests, avenues about 100 yards wide have been cut, the frontier being in the center. It is generally best to cross the frontier in the forest because the Germans won't venture more than a few hundred yards from their posts. However, the Quisling Police will. The Quisling Police may be recognized by their insignia:- a circle enclosing a yellow Maltese Cross. Generally, the frontier is not well guarded except where roads and railways cross it. The Swedish Frontier Guard is, however, more numerous. They should be avoided and every effort should be made to get in touch with the American or British Consul.
- k. Routes Across Norway to the Swedish Frontier: Units in this country will not be briefed on the specific details. In general, trains and coastwise shipping cannot be used. Crossing the frontier by foot during the winter should not be attempted without a guide except in the extreme South. In the South, the mountains are never over 1,500 feet and the crossing can be made at any time of the year. Many lakes will be found, but there are also numerous row-boats along the banks. A guide will be necessary to get by the Germans and Quislings.

In the central sections, it will be best to cross in the valleys: Skis and guides are necessary.

In the North, the distances are shorter but the terrain is more difficult. Patrols are not very numerous, but a guide is needed here not so much because of the patrols and the Quislings but because of the scarcity of passable places in the mountains and the severity of the weather.

C. West

Holland, Belgium, France: It is probably easier to cross into Belgium or France than any of the other German borders. The Dutch or Netherlands frontier, with its flat terrain and high, built up roads, is well patrolled. So are the French and Belgian borders, although to a lesser extent.

There is much more traffic between Germany and Western Europe than with Switzerland. By avoiding roads and border guard-posts, the escaper should not have too much difficulty in crossing.

If the escaper has any choice in the matter, he is advised to cross the frontier into France or Belgium, rather than Holland.

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1. HOLLAND: Stay away from the coast. It is strongly guarded. Hide in ditches away from the roads. 95% of the population will help. The churches are a possibility, Catholic better than Protestant. Anyone wearing buttons or pins will be a Nazi or collaborationist. Don't wear them yourself. A bicycle is a good mode of travel.

Obstacles - Coastal Defense Zone: The zone covers a large proportion of Holland in many places on the coast. The civilian population have been or are in the process of being evacuated. Thus the Escaper will have to use ingenuity in selecting his hide-out and remain hidden for at least two days, or until all signs of search have ended, when he must emerge at night and make for a safer area.

Frontier - The Eastern Frontier with Germany: Unless crossing the frontier in a freight or goods train, this border is fairly well guarded. The foremost drawback to foot travel in Holland is the nature of the terrain: flat swampy fields laced with built-up roadways make for easy control, as visibility is excellent. Head south for Belgium.

The Southern Frontier: The southern frontier with Belgium is patrolled by the Dutch and Belgians. The western end of the frontier is especially dangerous, being patrolled by Germans.

Population - Approximately 5% of population are Quislings, with most of remainder willing to assist escapers. There is a tendency to help an escaper while in a hide-out, rather than bring him into private homes. Some reports state if apprehended by police in Holland, escapers should identify themselves immediately, rather than later at a police station. Many police will, if they have the chance, help an airman across the border. Ignorance of the language is not signal as there are many foreign workers in Holland.

2. BELGIUM: Strongly anti-Nazi. Possible to get help. Head for Spain. The coastal areas are strongly guarded, and are no good. The border is guarded by Belgians.

Obstacles - Coastal Defense Zones: The same coastal defense zone exists as in France. Because of its proximity to England and the possibility of invasion, it is heavily guarded and is perhaps the most dangerous of all the Coastal Defense Zones.

Frontier - The Northern Frontier with Holland: If possible to pass through Luxembourg (Zone Interdite) this border should not prove too difficult and is recommended, since much aid may be obtained in Belgium.

The Eastern Frontier with Germany: Special attention should be drawn to the New Reich Frontiers, which make Eupen, Malmedy, and Luxembourg, German territory.

The Southern Frontier with France: This is not a major obstacle, being for the most part guarded by Belgians and French on the look-out for contraband passing in either direction.

Population: The attitude and courage of this people is outstanding. The biggest concentration of helpers will be found in Belgium. Their bravery and methods are only equalled by the French in Northern France.

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BELGIUM (continued)

Special Note: In occupied countries, evaders or escapers are advised NOT to carry parcels, bundles, large packages, etc., as they might be arrested on suspicion of being engaged in black market operations.

Germany - France - via Zone Interdite: This area has been set up between Germany and France to keep conscripted French workers, as well as escaping P/W from returning to France. It includes Luxembourg, and is fairly well guarded along its entire length.

(Illustrate on Map)

D. South

1. Germany - Switzerland: A neutral country. Surrounded by German controlled countries, difficult to be repatriated. The Northern border, Lake Constance and Rhine, are well patrolled. The best bet is Schaffhausen Salient, which is further to the east. The Frontier is very irregular, thereby presenting the possibility of returning into Germany.
  - a. The border between Germany and Switzerland is probably the most carefully guarded of any of the German frontiers, and the escaper should be most careful in approaching it and in crossing it. Guards are posted at night (on unlighted bicycles).
  - b. The Rhine River at the Swiss border is very swift and dangerous and all bridges are carefully guarded. In crossing the frontier on foot, care must be taken of the bulges in Switzerland running into Germany. Several instances have occurred in which escapers have successfully crossed the frontier only to recross into Germany on the side of one of the bulges.
  - c. The frontier should be approached at night and the entire day following should be spent studying the situation most carefully. Too many escapers have travelled through Germany successfully, only to be caught at the frontier through carelessness or undue haste. Spot the guard posts; and observe the frequency of patrols, the route they follow, whether or not they have dogs. Try to find a ditch or stream crossing the frontier which you can follow at night.

Do not attempt to cross until you are perfectly satisfied just what you are going to do, when you are going to do it, and where you are going after crossing the border successfully. Your map will indicate the location of Swiss villages; select one as far as possible away from the frontier as your destination. When you have decided all your moves, start well after dark, avoid roads and cross as few as possible. Don't hurry--approaching and preparing to cross frontiers requires the utmost patience and the most careful observation. If necessary, crawl on your stomach when you approach the frontier line. Do not make yourself known to the Swiss right on the border. Not until you are ten kilometers or more into Switzerland, is it really safe to give yourself up to a gendarme.

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ESCAPE - EUROPE

GERMANY - SWITZERLAND (continued)

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Some Allied escapers into Switzerland have found frontier guards friendly and helpful. Great care must be taken, however, in entering the country, because of German estates inside Switzerland (Enclaves).

- d. Schafhausen: This is a salient of Swiss territory extending North of the Rhine River. Can be identified on the terrain by lighted high tension towers which run in a general South-erly direction. Head for these.

As in other Neutral Countries, no service information is to be given to officers of the Swiss army or to anyone else. An escaper (evader) should not disclose to anyone but officials that he is an escaped prisoner. All neutral countries abound in newspaper correspondents and enemy agents who are always on the lookout for an interesting story or an unwary word.

The present situation in Switzerland is such that it is very difficult to get repatriates out of the country. Being entirely surrounded by enemy and occupied territory, normal means of travel are not available.

2. Austria

- a. (Austria---Czechoslovakia) The Czechoslovakian frontiers, which were fixed by the MUNICH award of 1938, are still in force, although the Germans are in complete control in the former Bohemian and Moravian provinces of CZECHOSLOVAKIA, which are now known as the PROTECTORATE. It is not thought, however, that this frontier between GERMANY proper and the PROTECTORATE is strictly controlled now, owing to the large number of refugees from the RUHR and elsewhere who are continually crossing. The main obstacle consists of the mountains which will be reached some 20-40 miles before the frontier. The best place to pass these is in the ELBE valley. The Sudeten Germans who inhabit the districts between the mountains and the new frontier are reported to be disillusioned about the Nazi rule, but it would be unwise to rely on their friendliness and safer to cross into the PROTECTORATE before trying to get help.

Nearly all Czechs would help, and even if they were too frightened to do so, it is extremely unlikely that they would betray an allied evader or escaper.

From the PROTECTORATE evaders should make their way South-eastwards into SLOVAKIA. It is not thought that the frontier is closely guarded.

Austria is filled with Axis troops and native collaborationists. Help is difficult to find, but by no means unobtainable. Head due South toward Yugoslavia.

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## AUSTRIA-CZECHOSLOVAKA (continued)

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## AUSTRIA

Under circumstances permitting him to do so with safety, an Austrian farmer likely as not would shelter a parachuting Allied flyer. Another source of aid to a flyer would be the many Ps/W working on Austrian farms. These include Poles, French, Yugoslavs and English. Frequently the Ps/W work without guards, which are usually assigned only to groups of 20 or more. In the cities, a fugitive would probably receive more effective aid in high class residential districts. In Vienna a fugitive could expect sanctuary and aid in Catholic male cloisters.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

To cross the Czech border on foot in early 1943 was not difficult. Anyone dressed in civilian clothes and speaking German could do so with the exercise of reasonable caution. Each street in a border town has a sentinel who is supposed to watch the intervals between streets, but usually doesn't. Streets and villages should be avoided in cross-country travel. One is likely to be questioned anywhere so that facility in the German language is a prime requisite. Travel on local trains in Austria or Czechoslovakia is dangerous, on express trains more so. The German railroad border patrol stopped trains to examine credentials at Lundenburg, outside Vienna, for express trains; at Skalitz for locals. In a German officer's uniform, with credentials, one could travel anywhere without question.

Anyone representing himself as an Allied soldier fleeing the Germans would be regarded with suspicion by Czechs, particularly those who would be most eager to aid him if he were bonafide. Germans have introduced imposters in an effort to trap just such Czechs. To establish Allied status to the satisfaction of the Czechs it might be well to carry the signature of someone like President Benes or Jan Masaryk. The teachers, lawyers, and doctors who are the backbone of Czech intelligence are so familiar with such signatures as to preclude possibility of counterfeit. They could be expected to accept such signatures as sufficient credentials.

3. Hungary

- a. Population. The Hungarians, although in fact ranged against the United Nations, are traditionally and by sympathy pro-British. They also sympathize with the Poles, but they dislike the Russians as well as most of their other neighbours, including their nominal Allies, the Slovaks and Rumanians. They are by no means friendly to the Germans.

The Hungarians do not believe in a German victory and are anxious to ingratiate themselves with the Allies. Almost all, from big landowners to small holders, would be prepared to help. An evader should invite assistance by saying "Angol", pronounced "Ongool" (English). He should NOT ask specifically, "Do you speak English?", but it is quite likely that

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## HUNGARY (continued)

he will come across someone who does, because in most small towns there are English speaking circles which frequently meet in a particular coffee house.

- b. Polish Internment Camps. There are still many Polish internment camps, principally to the North of and near BUDAPEST, to which entry could be made as the Poles are allowed to go in and out freely. The Hungarians secretly sympathise with Polish refugees, who are granted considerable latitude and whose escape into YUGOSLAVIA is not hindered. The Poles in these camps would almost certainly help any Allied evaders (except Russians).

If, however, the Germans should take over the country in order to prevent the Hungarian Government concluding a separate armistice with the Allies, this resource will no longer be available.

- c. Route. Evaders are advised NOT to make for ROUMANIA. Apart from the fact that TURKEY is further off and a less promising objective than the Adriatic coast, the peoples of ROUMANIA and BULGARIA are much less likely to be helpful than those of YUGOSLAVIA.

In 1940 HUNGARY was given by the VIENNA Award a large part of ROUMANIA. The two countries are extremely hostile to each other and it is probable that this new frontier is strongly guarded on both sides.

YUGOSLAVIA is a much better choice. The best place to cross the border is south west of BUDAPEST, after following closely the North or South shores of Lake BALATON and avoiding the large town of NAGYKANIZSA.

## V. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- A. Poland. Don't try this. Controlled by Germans, overcrowded, conditions are bad, and organizations are closely watched.

A large part of POLAND has been incorporated in the REICH. Another part has been formed into the so-called General Government. Both are completely controlled by the Germans, but the boundary between them is strictly controlled and very difficult to cross.

In both divisions of POLAND the Poles are extremely helpful, but it must be remembered that many Germans have been settled in the country, especially in the former "Corridor" between EAST PRUSSIA and the rest of Germany.

Escapers and/or Evaders are therefore advised not to make for POLAND, which is something of a dead end. If they find themselves there, they should go North to Danzig or South into Slovakia.

However, if allied personnel should find themselves in Poland after mission in this area, the following is applicable:-  
An Allied fugitive could expect aid from almost every Pole but ex-

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ESCAPE - EUROPE

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (continued)

Unclassified

treme security should be exercised in approaching these people. Probably the most oppressed of the conquered peoples, they are among the wariest in avoidance of Gestapo traps.

Poles are required to sit in certain sections of trains to segregate them from "Volksdeutsche." A Polish-speaking fugitive would be welcomed and aided in these sections, but controls are always more severe in these sections.

A German-speaking fugitive could, dressed as a civilian, make trips of not more than 40 km. on local trains without causing suspicion. Standard German civilian dress is dark, striped suit and briefcase. Germans almost never discuss politics in public. They ride only in those sections of trains marked "Volksdeutsche."

Poles are required to carry identification cards with fingerprints. Men of military age who have not been inducted into the German Army must carry a "Wehr-pass."

German money is extensively used in Poland.

B. Russia. Dangerous to cross battle lines, since Russians shoot first, and ask questions afterwards.

C. Italy.

1. General Advice Concerning Italy. It is suggested that the following points are of utmost importance to air crews operating over Italy:

- a. It is believed that all Air Force operational personnel are and will be treated by the Germans as Priority Prisoners in the event of capture. Regardless of conditions in Italy they will be transported to Germany by the first available air transportation.
- b. Crews forced landing and unable to evade capture should take every opportunity to escape while still in Italian territory. Rail and road transportation will be uncertain, sabotage by anti-Fascist Italians will certainly occur, adding to the opportunities to escape.
- c. From now on Italy will be in the same category as France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, and Greece. That is, it will be a country occupied by Germany. The inhabitants may now be considered as friendly, and they will become more so as their experience with the German conqueror increases. However, the Germans will immediately take steps to control effectively the internal administration and will:-
  1. Institute a system of control of the population by means of identity cards.
  2. Inaugurate a native police force of their own selection or obtain control of an existing one, such as the Carabinieri.
  3. Institute a system of travel control affecting the highways, railways, etc.

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ESCAPE - EUROPE

Unclassified

ITALY (continued)

4. Take over control and guarding of beaches, harbors, etc.
  5. Take over control of the food supply of the country as well as agricultural production.
  6. Take over border and frontier guards.
  - d. From the foregoing it will be seen that escape or evasion from the parts of Italy occupied by the Germans will become more difficult as time goes by; therefore, forced landed personnel should forget fatigue, minor injuries and, if at all possible, seek the aid of rural inhabitants in making their way to a friendly territory or into Switzerland.
  - e. Air crews should pay particular attention to the day to day developments in the territory over which they are operating. A last minute look at the bomb line, or the communique, may mean success or failure in escape attempts.
  - f. Evaders may give chits to Italians who help them. Such chits should indicate the services rendered and show name, rank, and number only, of the escaper. They should indicate whether money has been paid to the helper.
  - g. BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT YOUR ESCAPE AIDS ARE ON YOUR PERSON.
2. Activities of "A" Force (M. I. 9 Detachment) in Italy. Prior to the Italian Armistice "A" Force efforts in Italy were hampered by the fact that it was an enemy territory and consequently it was not possible to organize escape routes and underground railways. Immediately after the Armistice, Italy assumed the status of an enemy occupied territory and it was possible to organize such escape routes. The following is intended to give airmen an idea of the activities of "A" Force officers and agents. Specific information as to locations of these representatives cannot of course be given.

Immediately after the Armistice, Italian speaking agents, the majority of them Italian Nationals, were put into Italy in some numbers to the end that within a month practically the whole of Italy was covered by "A" Force agents. Those who were put into the northern part of Italy, that is, North of the Po Valley, were instructed to organize cells of "HELPERs" with instructions to pass along escaping prisoners and evaders to other cells of "HELPERs", so that according to the locality they would be sent either into Switzerland; into the Balkans or South through the Allied Lines. The principal components of the cells are poor type farmers; cafes in small villages; and boys and girls as watchers and guides. This to conform with standard "A" Force instructions in Evasion, namely; contact poor farmers in isolated sections, and in villages contact poor types of cafes. The results of these activities in Northern Italy are difficult to measure in terms of prisoners recovered, but from the reports received from Switzerland of escapers' arrivals, it is evident that at least a measure of success has resulted.

From the Po River Valley, South to the Allied Lines, British officers and agents have been put in by sea, by air, and by infiltration through the lines. The instructions in each case are

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ESCAPE - EUROPE

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ITALY (continued)

the same, that is, to organize cells of "HELPERS" in all localities in which it is possible to hide and provide for escapers and evaders. Instructions are given to these "HELPERS" to pass along Allied Personnel to the point at which they can be guided through the lines to the Fifth and 8th Armies, at which point more than one hundred individuals are engaged in the business of smuggling Allied Personnel across the line.

These "A" Force representatives operate in the hilly section to the center portion of the Italian peninsula from Parma to the South of Sulmona. Towns, of course, are avoided due to the presence of enemy troops and foregoing directions are given in order to give airmen an idea of the general route followed. The instructions for behavior are the same, that is, contact the poor farmer in an isolated spot. If he is not willing to help you, go to the next one; be inconspicuous; wear civilian clothes if they can be obtained and follow the instructions of those who wish to help you. It is difficult to arrive at a point within ten miles of the line of battle without being contacted by a representative of "A" Force.

A number of evaders have doubted the identity of people who have offered to help and upon return to their own force have asked why these representatives were not furnished with some means of identification. The carrying of any such documents by an agent would result in his instant death should he be picked up by the Germans.

It is pointed out that the Germans are well aware that this traffic in escapers and evaders is going on, and in order to apprehend those Italians who are helping Allied Personnel, Gestapo agents have been turned loose in British or American uniforms to discover organizations. Also Italians of German sympathies have been engaged to contact escaped prisoners and to lead them to police stations and German headquarters instead of to the lines. These individuals, of course, are something that cannot be foreseen and guarded against. The evader or escaper must use his intelligence and hope for the best. Provided they are not asked to go into any of the large towns on their way south; that they are kept in isolated farms, shepherd's huts and charcoal burner's huts...and eventually either guided to the shore of the Adriatic, south of Anconia or toward the line of battle, a chance may be taken. Escapers may give chits to "HELPERS" and sign them with their name, rank and number stating the service performed and whether any payment was made to them out of the escaper's purse. If it is necessary to give 500 lire for some minor service the recipient will be all the more anxious to assist future escapers and evaders, and the airmen can always obtain another purse when he returns to his unit.

D. The Balkans

1. Yugoslavia

- a. Political. This country which was formed after the last war out of the Kingdoms of SERBIA and MONTENEGRO and a large part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, has never been really united,

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## YUGOSLAVIA (Continued)

owing to the lack of sympathy between the three main races, the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The two last have always suspected the Serbs of wishing to make YUGOSLAVIA into a GREATER SERBIA.

The Germans have taken advantage of this disunity to split up the country and their policy of disintegration has had considerable success.

They have themselves annexed the part of SLOVENIA north of LJUBLJANA and settled many Germans there. Southern SLOVENIA and the Dalmatian coast were annexed by the Italians, but have now been taken over by the Germans, though not annexed to the REICH. HUNGARY and ALBANIA have taken their share and the Bulgarians have occupied the whole of MACEDONIA. MONTENEGRO was granted its "freedom" (and has remained freer than the Germans or Italians intended). The rest of the country has been divided into the "Independent Kingdom" of CROATIA and SERBIA, both under Quisling governments.

- b. Population. The peoples of YUGOSLAVIA, though all Slav by race, differ very much from each other owing to their distinct historical backgrounds. The Slovenes and Croats in the North West part of the country, who lived for centuries under the Austrian Empire are mainly Catholic and western in their outlook, whereas in SERBIA and BOSNIA, which formed part of the Ottoman Empire, the people are Greek Orthodox or Moslem and their outlook is eastern.

In general the whole YUGOSLAV population is likely to be keenly pro-Ally except some of the officials of the present regimes, a small portion of the townspeople in ZAGREB and BELGRADE, and a good many of the Bosnian Moslems.

All the Serbian peasants and minor officials would be friendly, almost all the Croat peasants (but not the officials), and all the Slovenes. Since the Italian Armistice there have been reports of the Italian troops joining the guerillas, but most of the Italian Forces and officials have been placed under guard or disarmed by the Germans.

- c. Geography. Much of the country is wild and mountainous. These parts have never been permanently conquered by Axis forces and it is fairly safe for evaders to approach any dwelling. In winter it will be absolutely necessary for them to seek shelter as soon as possible owing to the severity of the climate

- d. Danger Areas. There are strong German garrisons in the towns of SLOVENIA. The Dalmatian coast was annexed by ITALY in 1941, but since the Italian armistice it has been the scene of violent fighting between Croat Quisling and German Forces on the one hand and Yugoslav patriots on the other. The Germans hold the main ports. The Hinterland is wild and the inhabitants are poor.

The district of SREM and Eastern SLAVONIA, between the rivers DRAVE and SAVE, are dangerous, as well as the part of SERBIA North of the DANUBE known as the BANAT which is full of German settlers of long standing.

- e. Guerillas. Elsewhere the partisan movement is gaining

Unclassified

## YUGOSLAVIA (continued)

strength and is in complete control of many parts of the country, particularly in BOSNIA and HERCEGOVINA West of the river DRINA. They also hold part of DALMATIA.

There are two main bodies of guerillas: (1) MIHAJLOVIC's Chetniks a SERBIAN organization based on the YUGOSLAV pre-war army, and (2) the "People's Army of Liberation" under TITO, which is very pro-Russian, though it does not claim to be purely Communist. These two groups are mutually antagonistic despite attempts to effect a reconciliation between their leaders. MIHAJLOVIC's guerillas operate in SERBIA, Southern CROATIA and MONTENEGRO, unhampered by the new frontiers, and are believed to be only a small proportion of his total following, which is organized on underground lines with key-men in main villages and is waiting to rise when the Allies invade the BALKANS.

The "People's Army" is active in BOSNIA, Western SLAVONIA, parts of DALMATIA and even over the border in ITALY. The troops often wear captured Axis uniforms but are distinguished by a red star on their caps. If evaders come across one soldier by himself he is almost certain to be a patriot. Enemy soldiers never travel alone.

There are British liaison officers with both of these forces.

- f. Escape. Escapers should make for the Dalmatian coast, if possible South of SPLIT. YUGOSLAVIA can only be crossed with the help of the inhabitants. As it is impossible to distinguish between loyal and disloyal Yugoslavs, the only safe course is to tell the truth and say that they are trying to get back to Allied territory. They should not ask to be directed to the guerilla forces or mention TITO, because the Germans have given out in P/W camps that they will shoot any allied escapers or evaders caught trying to get in touch with the guerillas. They have also offered a large reward for TITO's capture, alive or dead, and any enquiry about him will excite suspicion. Evaders are sure to be picked up by guerilla forces before long, and should make themselves known at once because the guerillas are very suspicious and inclined to shoot at sight.

The guerillas will be very friendly, once they have proof of evaders identities, and will pass them on to one of the British officers who are working with them and who will be able to organize the rest of the journey.

Keep your uniform at least temporarily. Explain they you are a member of the Allied Forces.

When you have been taken to them and have convinced them that you are genuine and trustworthy, ask the guerilla leader to establish contact for you with the nearest American or British Officer.

In approaching the guerilla fighter groups, you have one of two choices:-

1. Asking their help in getting out of the country and back to your own outfit...
- or
2. Joining up with them as a fighting soldier.

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## YUGOSLAVIA (continued)

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This choice is optional and left entirely up to the individual Evader or Escaper. The second choice is endorsed by the War Department.

If you choose to join them, as many Allied personnel have done, you may be quite sure that your dependants at home will receive full scale allowances while you are so engaged. This is subject only to definite advice reaching London that you have offered your services to the guerillas. Your flying pay continues, even though you are fighting with ground units.

## THE ISLANDS AND COASTAL REGIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA

TERRAIN: The coastal region of Yugoslavia, including Dalmatia and Montenegro, consists of a number of large islands, a narrow coastland and a belt of mountainous uplands. The islands are rugged and rocky, with numerous cliffs and isolated beaches at the head of small bays and sheltered coves. Hills rise to over 1500 feet. There is little flatland. The steepest slopes are usually on the northeast side.

The hilly coastal lowland is narrow and in some places entirely lacking. The land rises abruptly inland along a more or less well defined scarp, which may be more than 2000 feet high, with slopes over 30%. Small streams carve the slopes; ravines have steep walls and rocky floors.

The coast is irregular, with many inlets and bays. In some places cliffs rise from the sea to a height of 300 feet or more. Beaches are few, and are found usually at the head of isolated coves.

A few rivers such as the Zrmanja, Kerta, Cetina and Neretva flow across the coastal region from the uplands and provide routes to and from the interior. Such streams cross the uplands in deep, narrow, rock walled canyons. The upland region is extremely rough and barren, with innumerable sinkholes.

CLIMATE: Both coast and upland have a typical Mediterranean climate with mild wet winters (average 50 degrees F.) and warm dry summers (average 80 degrees F.). As one goes upland, the temperature becomes colder and the rains less frequent. There are two winds along the coast: the humid sirocco from the south, with overcast sky and followed by rains, usually blowing in summer when the temperature is high, and the bora of winter, usually following the sirocco, gusty and bringing clear weather.

COVER: On the islands and along the coast vegetation is similar to that of the Naples region: evergreen scrub on hill slopes where uncultivated, cypress, evergreen oaks, olives, figs, grapes and other fruit trees where cultivated. Vegetation in general is sparse, with many barren slopes and others covered with thin grass. Hence, cover is limited.

The same is true of the uplands, which are typically of barren rock. The lower slopes have been deforested, although scrub remains on the seaward slopes. Some upland plateaus still have scattered forest, chiefly conifer and beach, with oak and ash at lower altitudes.

YUGOSLAVIA (continued)

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## NOTES ON PRINCIPAL ISLANDS:

Krk. The eastern coast is steep. The southwestern part of the island is well cultivated near the town of Krk and is partly wooded.

Cherso. The coasts are high and rugged, but somewhat lower near the southern end. The eastern side has few inhabitants, considerable forest and barren wastes. The northwest has several villages.

Pag. The northern part is wooded. The island is exposed to northerly winds, hence has a severe winter and is cultivated only in the extreme southwest.

Brac. The island is southeast of Sibenik and is the most populous of the Dalmatian islands. The eastern side is relatively low and in places barren. The south is sheer and rises to peaks as high as 2500 feet. The south side is cultivated only near the town of Bol, in the central part of the southern coast. The remainder of this side is covered with brush. Numerous towns are on the northern side, and slopes covered with vineyards, olive groves and pastures.

Hvar. The Southern coast rises abruptly to a chain of mountains. The uplands are barren, but the northern slopes are well cultivated and have weeds and pastures. The eastern end of the island is lower. There are many villages.

Korcula. A chain of mountains covered with oak and pine trees extends from one end of the island to the other. Valleys and lower slopes are fertile and well cultivated. The island is thinly peopled.

PEOPLE: The islands and coastal region, both lowlands and mountains are thinly peopled, although the rare patches of cultivated land are densely settled. The inhabitants are mostly fishermen, or peasants wresting a meager existence from thin infertile soil.

Along the Dalmatian coastal inlets and on the islands, there are many small fishing villages and a few fair-sized ports from north to south. Susak (16,000 population), Zara (19,000), Sibenik (13,000), Split (35,000), Dubrovnik (10,000) and Kotor (4,000). Near Susak and Sibenik the coast is thinly settled.

In the mountains, settlements are scattered and large towns are few. The more important towns have populations of three to five thousand. The majority of the inhabitants live in isolated huts and small villages, usually at the base of the hills on the edge of small mountain-encircled plains.

The population of the area is chiefly Croat, except in the north between Zara and Knin, and in the south around Kotor (Montenegro), where there are large numbers of Serbs. The Croats speak practically the same language as the Serbs, but are Roman Catholics, (while the Serbs are Orthodox) and use the Latin alphabet (the Serbs use the Cyrillic, Russian alphabet). Historically the Serbs have been more warlike and tenacious of their freedom than the Croats.

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## YUGOSLAVIA (continued)

Except in Zara, which is predominantly Italian and was a part of Italy before the war, the Italian population of Dalmatia is very small and is confined to a few commercial families in the larger towns.

Since the defeat of Yugoslavia, the whole area has been under Italian control and the Croat population has remained neutral in the complicated struggles which have torn the country farther inland. The bulk of the people along the coast have had nothing to do with the massacres of Serbs perpetrated by the Croat Quisling Pavelich and his Ustashis. Nor have they given much help to the Partisan forces (largely Serb; with some Croats) who have actively resisted the Axis. With the collapse of Italy, however, and the advance of the Partisans to the coast, the Croats in this area gave active assistance to the patriot forces. Still more recently, the Germans have recaptured the chief coastal towns and many of the inhabitants have relapsed into a passive attitude. But it can be assumed that the vast majority of the population of the coast and islands is pro-United Nations - except where a preponderance of enemy strength make it inexpedient to appear so.

## MILITARY INFORMATION.

Military information from the Dalmatian Coast and Yugoslavia is frequently inaccurate and late in arriving. The situation changes constantly and it is most difficult to set forth the exact picture at any particular time. The Partisans who operate mostly in the north of Yugoslavia fight a purely guerilla type of warfare, that is they will make an attack on a particular area or railway, destroy their objective and then disperse or retire when enemy reinforcements appear.

The Chetnicks (so-called) under General MIHAILOVITCH operating mostly south of the rivers DRINA and MORAVA are more or less in a static state. They control a large area which is functioning in comparatively a normal manner.

2. Bulgaria

The Bulgarian peasantry, as opposed to the wealthy class, are favorably disposed towards the Allies...but German influence is paramount in the (former Greek) coastal strip, of which the frontier area with Turkey is entirely German controlled. The seaport of Varna on the Black Sea, as the center of Communistic activity in Bulgaria, might be a good objective for escapers.

3. Roumania

Excluding the capital (Bucharest), the strongest German element lies along the old Yugoslav border. Galatz is the most likely port at which to find ships loading for Turkey.

The route overland and southwards for escapers should aim at entry to Bulgaria, although the crossing of the frontier, which is closely guarded, would be difficult and should be undertaken with great precaution.

An alternative would be entry into one of the Polish internment camps, where help would be given by inmates.

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## THE BALKANS (continued)

GENERAL NOTE: The chances of getting help in Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania are slender, unless the escaper can speak any central European language and has the appearance of one of the Balkan nationalities.

The best route out of Roumania is to head due east towards the Black Sea Ports, and try to get on one of the many Turkish boats which ply from Roumania to Turkey.

Although the primary route is in the direction of the Black Sea, a secondary and somewhat more difficult route would be south and west towards Yugoslavia. However, travel restrictions are strict, the terrain is rugged, and the frontier guards are strict. Once inside Yugoslavia, an attempt should be made to establish contact with the guerilla armies in the mountains.

4. Greece

- a. Political. GREECE is not entirely an enemy-occupied country. The Germans control only the large towns and the main lines of communications.

The whole of THRACE north east of SALONIKA has been annexed by the Bulgarians who have carried out a ruthless policy of Bulgarisation. Many of the Greek inhabitants have been killed and many more have emigrated. The Bulgarians have lately extended their occupation as far as the AXIOS (VARDAR) river, but SALONIKA and territory within a radius of twenty kilometres remain under German military administration.

Elsewhere the patriot forces, of which the most important is the National Liberation Front, with its own army, is in almost complete control. In particular, the whole of the PINDU PINDUS range, the backbone of Northern GREECE, is free and patriots also rule much of the East coast and the island of EUBOEIA. The Liberation Army wages constant guerilla warfare with the enemy. It is in touch with the Middle East Command and there are British liaison officers serving with it.

Not all Greeks are in sympathy with the political ideas of the Liberation Front, the nucleus of which was the Communist Party, but practically all are united in their opposition to the Axis and in loyalty to their Allies. They have given and are giving all possible help to our troops stranded there.

- b. Escape Organizations. There have been a great many successful escapes from GREECE since its occupation. Escapes continue from many parts of the country, and from CRETE and the islands as well, despite the difficulties of occupation troops, distances and the necessity of crossing the AEGEAN sea.

Many Greeks are either actually members of escape organizations, or know where to direct an evader to get in touch with one.

The needs of security make it impossible to reveal the beaches from which escape can be made. Briefing as to routes, and so forth, must therefore be somewhat vague. Evaders will be told of these places by Greeks who help them.

The initiative to rescue will most likely come from the Greeks themselves. They are always on the lookout for Allied personnel and will probably see any aircraft coming down.



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GREECE (continued)

- c. Escape Routes and Areas. From THRACE the best place to make for is the ADRIANOPOLE (EDIRNE) Area in TURKEY. It is possible to find people in the villages a few miles west of the frontier who will row evaders across the river MARITSA which forms it. However, care must be taken in this district which is occupied in considerable strength by the Germans.

If South of SALONIKA, evaders should make for the CHALKIDIKI Peninsula. There are three headlands, looking like three fingers on the map, the best of which seems to be the middle one.

Evaders will probably encounter Greeks before they reach the headland, who can direct them to the points from which escapes can be effected. If not, they should go down to the less frequented dock areas and get in touch with the skipper of one of the very many caiques which ply between the islands and the Turkish coast. They must proceed with great caution, for the docks are infested with enemy agents. The Greeks will understand what is wanted. This kind of thing has been happening for a long time.

In all other parts of GREECE the best course is to get into the territory of the National Front as soon as possible. Nearly all Greeks in the country districts would help an evader to reach a safe area. But an evader's ultimate aim is to be put on board a boat going to TURKEY. Any promise of reward he makes to the crew will be met by the British (American representatives in that country.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Morale

1. "Do you realize that escaping is the ultimate goal of all prisoners, and that it is to this end that we have been trying to build up their courage! Everyone carries a scheme of evasion...for many, it will remain vague and sink into mere fantasy; but others will be able to transform it into reality. Suddenly they will go; shoot through Germany, reach home.

Escaping is really a matter of keeping your nerve, distracting attention at the crucial moment. After five false starts my opportunity came."

Jean Helion

Even if Escape is Impossible or Unsuccessful You are not out of the War.

- a. It is the duty of every P/W to try to escape and to keep right on trying until successful. There is nothing that prohibits this in the Geneva Convention. Escape attempts are merely violations of discipline.
- b. Even if the attempted escape is unsuccessful, it will constitute important assistance in the war effort.

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## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (continued)

- c. Keeps up morale of fellow P/W and counteracts barbed wire fever.
- d. Opportunity for observation and gathering information about the enemy. Actually, many do succeed in escaping.
- e. European - Because of the increases in the regularity of bombing raids over the Continent, and the increase in the number of planes participating, a larger number of personnel are effecting escape from this area than in any other theatres of operation.
- f. Pacific and Asiatic Area - The number of escapes from Japanese prison camps and evasions from Jap-occupied territory is also increasing.
- g. North Africa - During the African campaign, a large number of personnel returned to their units with the aid of Arabs. The most phenomenal case of escape is that of an entire bomber crew who were captured by the Italians and placed on a submarine destined for Italy. The sub was damaged by British depth bombs and the aircrew - taking advantage of the confusion - escaped and returned to their units.
- h. Value of Escaping

Both successful and unsuccessful attempts teach lessons of value to future attempts and to others making similar plans. They invariably are productive of information of value to the Allied war effort, even if the escaper is at liberty only a day or so. Prison Camps which are "escape-conscious" require many more guards - troops that would otherwise be available for front line duty.

Prisoners at large have a tremendous effect upon the morale of the civilian population, keeping it in a state of fear and uncertainty. Police are distracted from their normal duties and in general the whole civilian structure of the vicinity is upset while the prisoner is at large.

To sum up:-

- 1. To bring yourself back
- 2. To gain information of vital military and economic nature
- 3. To involve numerous guards and searchers
- 4. To hurt German morale
- 5. Positive factors of being a general nuisance value.

B. Security

- 1. The matter of security is continually being stressed in connection with all matters having to do with the prosecution of the war. You have been extensively warned about the destruction of documents, etc., which are in danger of being captured. Also, the destruction of certain type of aircraft, in the event that they are forced down behind enemy lines. You have been warned against Interrogation and other matters. Add just one more warning to all the others: Don't talk when you get back...

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ESCAPE - EUROPE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (concluded)

Unclassified

2. Withholding Military Information From the Enemy

- a. Upon your safe return, you will NOT communicate to any but authorized personnel, any information concerning your evasion and/or escape. This is a Security Order. You will exercise every degree of precaution for the safety of all information concerning your experiences of escape or evasion from enemy occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, release, etc. You will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in letters which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise-- yours' of the enemys'. In Allied or Neutral countries the American Military Attache is authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion, and internment matters. Even though you may have had dramatic experiences that would make good telling, don't talk when you return. Don't shut the door on your buddies or those who will follow you. Don't increase the hazards for the future Escaper/Evader. The reasons for silence should be obvious: therefore keep secret:-

1. Names of those who helped
2. Methods by which you escaped or evaded
3. Routes you followed.

- b. In Neutral Countries be particularly on your guard against persons representing the press. Destroy all incriminating physical evidence, plans, documents, marked clothing, travel tickets, miscellaneous papers, etc. Forget that you have been formally instructed in evasion and escape but DON'T forget the vital principles and techniques which have been imparted to you.

"Never for a moment think you're out of the fight. This is both a total and a global war. The full totality of your effort is needed as long as you live, and where an American soldier is - free or prisoner - there we have another front. If ever you should have the bad luck to find yourself a prisoner, it won't take you long to find that the front in the enemy camps is a vitally important one - and one that we are not neglecting.

BOTH WHAT HAS BEEN TOLD YOU AND THAT WHICH HAS BEEN INTIMATED MUST BE HELD IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY. THERE MUST BE NO MENTION OF IT. EVEN THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED SUCH INSTRUCTION MUST NEVER BE DISCLOSED. THE LIVES, HOPES AND SAFETY OF MANY PERSONS, THE SUCCESS OF THIS WORK FOR BOTH THE BRITISH AND OURSELVES, DEPEND UPON THE COMPLETE SECURITY OF THIS MATERIAL."

... To be followed by EVASION, ESCAPE AND SURVIVAL  
ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATERS

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