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RESTRICTED

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
OFFICERS AND MEN  
OF THE  
EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
IN THE  
EVENT OF CAPTURE**

AG 8 AF NO. 1.

21 July, 1942.

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**THIS DOCUMENT MUST NOT  
BE TAKEN INTO A PLANE.**

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1. The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, directly or indirectly, to anyone not in the armed forces of the United States.

2. C.O.'s are to see that a copy of this publication is issued to every member of the 8th Air Force whose duties might take him over enemy territory.

By Command of Major General SPAATZ.

B. L. DAVIS,

*Colonel, A.G.D.,*

*Adjutant General.*

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#### IV.—HOW THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO LEARN THESE THINGS FROM YOU

There are only three sources through which the enemy can obtain information from you. They are :—

1. Your aircraft and its equipment.
2. Your papers—either official such as maps and documents, or personal such as letters and diaries.
3. Your talk.

The enemy cannot add to the information provided by your plane or papers, but he can do a lot to make you talk. The first Americans captured must expect the most rigorous interrogation, and must be prepared for all the tricks that the Germans have used. Among the methods which the enemy has employed to get people to talk, and which have been reported by prisoners of war who actually experienced them, are the following :—

- (a) Direct interrogation, sometimes for long periods in the hope of wearing you down and sometimes renewed long after capture.
- (b) Indirect interrogation through casual conversations about flying and the war in general—shop talk—in the hope of having you reveal something.
- (c) He will try to impress you with his great knowledge about yourself, your plane and the American Air Force in the hope you will think he knows everything already, and therefore there is no "harm" in talking freely. He may suggest that others have already told everything so your silence is no longer necessary.
- (d) He will appeal to your vanity by letting you show how much you know.
- (e) He will try to arouse you to angry protest by ridiculing the war efforts of the United States.
- (f) He will flatter you with special attentions, inviting you to parties with German airmen of great prominence. A spirit of good sportsmanship will prevail and liquor will flow.
- (g) He will reveal all sorts of German facts and secrets to you in the hope that you will feel like a heel if you do not tell him something.
- (h) He may try to intimidate you with threats.
- (i) On first arriving at a prison camp a "Red Cross" official, really an enemy officer dressed up, may give you a blank to fill out which will ask you to supply your squadron number and location. He may say your capture will not be reported or your mail transmitted if you refuse to fill out the blanks.
- (j) Enemy officials may dress in Allied or American uniforms and engage genuine prisoners in conversation.
- (k) Hospital nurses or attendants may try to gather information after being very sympathetic.
- (l) Microphones will certainly be used as they are a favourite German device and may be expected in every room at every stage of your imprisonment.
- (m) In addition to the above much-used methods the enemy will resort to many other tricks to extract information from you.

## V.—HOW YOU CAN DEFEAT THE ENEMY

1. Destroy, if possible, your aircraft, maps, etc., by fire if brought down. You have instructions. Do not forget to follow them.
2. Do not carry and do not allow anyone else to carry any unauthorized papers, official or private, on a flight. An envelope, a bill or the stub of a movie ticket may give away the location of your squadron. In writing letters after becoming a prisoner do not address them in such a way as to reveal the location of your squadron or any other unit. Use the official A.P.O. or write c/o War Department.
3. (a) **Tell only your Name, Rank and Serial Number.** If you answer any other questions you are helping the enemy. Say "I cannot answer," or "I do not know," or following the advice the enemy gives his own airmen, say "Would you answer that question if you were me?" By sticking to these you win.
- (b) Do not talk shop with the enemy. He is not really anxious to talk with a fellow flyer. He wants to gain knowledge which will help him in the war. Do not try to deceive him with lies. Remember he is an expert interrogator and among your lies he will find some truths. **You can outwit him only by saying nothing.**
- (c) Don't be impressed with his knowledge, which may have come from papers or markings in your plane. It may partly be a guess or he may want you to confirm something. **No facts are harmless.** They may be used to persuade the next prisoner that all is known and he may as well talk.
- (d) Don't try to prove to the enemy how big you are by telling him what you know. He will only think you are small, and you will be much better satisfied with yourself afterwards if you have told only your name, rank and number.
- (e) It is good to be patriotic, but you can best prove your patriotism by keeping silent and not by telling how much the United States is doing.
- (f) The enemy will not treat you nicely and offer you drinks because he likes you. Remember he treats any likely prospect that way. He is after information to use against us. Among the "good sports" will be one or several interrogation officers waiting to seize on any chance remark you may let slip. It is not good sportsmanship but a stupid mistake to go on parties with the enemy.
- (g) Never believe anything you are told from enemy sources. Even if he should give you correct information, it is reasonably safe for him to do so, while **any fact you reveal may cost your friends their lives.**
- (h) Threats are bluff. The enemy will not dare to carry out threats; he knows that reprisals would follow.
- (i) In order to have your capture promptly reported and your mail delivered you need only tell your **Name, Rank and Number.**
- (j) Remember the person to whom you are talking may be an enemy. The only friend you can be sure of is the man you knew before capture.
- (k) Tell no enemy person, however sympathetic, anything except your **Name, Rank and Number.**
- (l) Because you cannot find a microphone do not think there isn't one. We know that there is and that the enemy, who has had years of experience in eavesdropping, is listening. If you have plans to discuss with friends, do your talking outdoors and even there be careful.
- (m) You can defeat every effort of the enemy by **keeping silent.**

**VI.—WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY**

1. You can plan to escape. Opportunities will be offered. Even attempts which fail are worth while as they have an appreciable nuisance value and the information collected will make later attempts successful. If you succeed in escaping and arriving in friendly territory do not discuss your experiences with anyone, in military service or out, until you are interviewed by the proper military authorities. And never, under any circumstances, mention the name of any person who may have helped you to escape.
2. You can damage enemy morale by spreading proper ideas and correcting misinformation among the prison guards and such civilians as you may be able to reach.
3. You can, if you are an enlisted man and go out of the camp on working parties, do as little work as possible and you may be able to do real damage.
4. You can keep your eyes and ears open at all times. We want information. Help us to get it.