

File

S E C R E T

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

Military Intelligence Service

E & E Report

No. 2904.....

Date 28 Feb. 1945

S E C R E T

Auth:

AC of S, G-2

Init: W. A. J.

Date 28 Feb. 45

Prepared by

PW & X DET

Escaper

Evader

..... McCALL, Virgil, W. 1st Lt O-561566
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Unit

..... Co B, 509 Pzcht Inf Bn.

Missing in Action 20 Jan 1945.....

Rejoined Allied Forces 11 Feb 1945.....

At PRUM, BELGIUM.....

INTERROGATOR

..... JF.

S E C R E T

E & E Report No. 2904

Prepared by PW & X, MIS

Evasion in BELGIUM

MAPS USED:

GSGS 4042, Sheet 6

GSGS 4346, Sheet K51

VIRGIL W. McCALL, 1st Lt, O-561566

CAPTURED IN GERMAN COUNTERATTACK

On 20 January 1945 Lt McCall's battalion attacked BORN (Sheet 6, P-8594) and late in the afternoon the forward elements entered the town. When the Germans counter-attacked with Tiger tanks, an order to withdraw was given but apparently never received and he stayed in the town with Capt Alden, (E&E 6/863/2785) tending two wounded men. Capt Alden told Lt McCall to stay with them while he sent to look for a jeep to take them back. Neither of them then knew the situation and Alden finding nothing, came back to his wounded. In the meantime the Germans captured Lt McCall and took him to their CP, to which Alden soon was brought.

INTERROGATION

From here until his escape from PRUM (Sheet 6, L-0779) McCall's story parallels that of Alden except for interrogation. Not speaking French or German, he did not talk to the German woman officer in the second CP to which they were taken. She seemed to belong to the unit and was answering the telephone and giving orders. Alden said that she had tried to break his confidence by telling him that the Germans would soon extract all his information. McCall's interrogations were simple. He gave his name, rank and number, and upon his refusal to say anything more he was not pressed, except when he was with a second interrogator who used an interpreter. Here he was shown alleged records of prisoners executed because they had refused to talk. Mc Call considered this an idle threat and remained silent.

TRYS ESCAPE FROM PRUM

At 2000 on 1 February Lt McCall and Capt Alden planned to escape. The latter was to meet him outside the building. Lt McCall took with him two EM, one named Rosenberg. Lt McCall does not know Rosenberg's unit, nor the name and unit of the other man. Rosenberg went out to the latrine and followed a gravedigging detail past the guards, then seperated from them and hid, waiting for

SECRET

McCall and the other man, who were escaping from the window on the third floor by means of blankets tied together. The man went first, lost his hold on the blanket just outside the window and fell three floors to the concrete court. He lay there stunned for a while, then crawled off. Later, after his recapture, he spit blood from internal injuries. McCall made the descent without mishap. He collected his two men and started off in the direction of PRUM. On the road a car came along with lights on and they jumped into a ditch, but a guard saw them. The German said something they couldn't understand and pointed his rifle at them. McCall saw that the safety was still on, so decided to bluff. He got out of the ditch, said "Ja" to the guard, and then walked on down the road followed by the two men. The guard brought up the rear, apparently not knowing what to do. He came to a point which might have been the end of his beat and turned back paying no further attention to them, although they were all in unmistakable American uniform. About 0300 the next morning, they walked into a German patrol, were recaptured and taken back to PRUM.

RED CROSS AND ESCAPE FORM

By the time McCall returned to PRUM, the prisoners had moved on to GEROLSTEIN (K51, WL 2381) and he was sent after them. At GEROLSTEIN the Germans presented him with a form which they asked him to sign. He refused, first on principle, and second because it was written in German. Later one of the soldiers told him it was a statement to the effect that if the undersigned escaped and was recaptured he voluntarily forfeited all rights as a prisoner of war. It was not a printed form, but a statement written for the individual case. Then he was given a printed Red Cross form the size of a postcard. It stated that the undersigned was in a transient PW camp, was wounded, slightly wounded or not wounded and for the purpose of receiving packages his name, rank and number were as follows.

From here on McCall stayed with Alden, escaped with him and Aldrich, who later disappeared in PRUM, and was finally picked up by 22 Inf, 4 Div.

DISTRIBUTION:

FW & X DET	1
G-2, COM Z	1
File	2 ✓
(Research-1)	

SECRET

E & E Report No. 2904

Prepared by PW & X, MIS

CASUALTY REPORT

VIRGIL W. McCALL, 1st Lt., O-561566
Co. B, 509th Parachute Bn.

Lt. McCALL was taken prisoner by the Germans on 20 Jan 1945 at Born, Belgium. He escaped from the Germans and on 11 Feb rejoined US forces at PRUM, Germany.

Capt JOHN O'HORA, MC, 3 Armd Div, was last seen by narrator in the transient Prison Camp at GEROLSTEIN, Germany where he was tending the wounded US prisoners.

Pvt Henry Aldrich, 35th Div, was last seen by the narrator in a house in PRUM, Germany, where he was hiding after his escape from the Germans. Aldrich disappeared from the house without saying anything to his companion..

DISTRIBUTION:

AG Casualty ETOUSA ...1

File1

24. Christopher:

As I recall,
Alden's story was
circulated on the
old form.

This has several
points that suggest
full distribution (even
air force) but if
it is to receive full
distribution it must
be rewritten to in-
clude full detail
rather than descrip-
tion of some escape
phases solely by
reference to Capt.
Alden's story.

Comment?

-)

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

2904

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-561566 Rank 1/Lt NAME (print) Virgil W. McCall

CLAIMS ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOWING UNIT B Co, 509 Precht Inf Bn

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA)
on 28 February 1945, has signed a Security Certificate, and
is not considered suspect.

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

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

He was a PW/~~EVADER~~ for a period of 22 days.

John Forsyth
JOHN FORSYTH
(1st Lt CAC

IMPORTANT:

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

RESTRICTED

2904

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office, Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

6 August 1943

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

SUBJECT : Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO : The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground :
Army Air Forces :
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area :
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations :
Defense Commands :
Departments :
Base Commands :
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands :
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.

2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.

3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.

4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.

5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov. 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject : Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War :

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore *SECRET*.

2. a You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W.D.

- (1) The names of those who helped you.
- (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
- (3) The route you followed.
- (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.

c You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.

d You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.

e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my *escape* or *evasion* from capture is *SECRET* and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) Virgil W. McCall
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. D-561566
Unit B Co, 509 Pch Inf Bn

Signed Virgil W. McCall
Dated 28 Feb 45
Witness John Farnth
1st Lt, etc

RESTRICTED

~~Captain W. McCall~~

Escape in GERMANY

MAPS USED:

GS GS 4042, Sheet 6
GS GS 4346, Sheet K51

VIRGIL W. McCALL, 1st Lt, O-561566

CAPTURED IN GERMAN COUNTERATTACK

(LT. McCall's)

On 20 January 1945 ~~the~~ battalion ~~was~~ attacking the town

~~at~~ BORN (G, P 8594) ~~and~~ late in the afternoon the forward elements entered the town, ~~but then~~ the Germans counter-

attacked with Tiger tanks. Apparently an order to withdraw was given which ~~I~~ never received, and he stayed in the town

reconnoitering, ~~until he came across~~ Capt Alden (E&E 6/863/2785) tending two wounded men. Alden told McCall to stay

with them while he went to look for a jeep to take them back.

~~At this point, neither of them knew the situation, however~~

Alden, finding nothing, came back to his wounded. In the

meantime the Germans ~~had come up to~~ McCall, captured him

and ~~brought him away to~~ their CP, to which Alden was brought

~~shortly after~~

INTERROGATIONS

From here until his escape from PRUM (G, L 0779) McCall's

story ~~is the same as~~ that of Alden except for ~~his~~ interrogations.

Not speaking French or German, he did not talk to the German

woman officer in the second CP to which they were taken. ~~How-~~

~~ever~~ she seemed to belong to the unit because she was answering

the telephone and ordering things to be done. Alden said that

she had tried to break his confidence by telling him that the

Germans would soon ~~know~~ extract all his information. McCall's

interrogations were simple. He gave his name, rank and number,

and upon his refusal to say anything more he was not pressed,

except when he was with the interrogator who used an inter-

preter. Here he was shown what were ~~alleged~~ records of the

prisoners ~~put to death who had refused to talk~~. McCall con-

sidered this an idle threat and remained silent.

TRYs ESCAPE FROM PRUM

(AT)

LT.

CAPT.

Around 2000 on 1 February McCall and Alden planned to escape. The latter was to meet ~~them~~ outside the building.

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

~~EVASION~~~~CAPTURED~~/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) GERMANY.....For all Personnel.

1. No. 0-561566..... Rank... 1st Lt..... Name Virgil W. McCall
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) No.....
3. Were you wounded? Give details.. No.....
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) B. Co. 509 Pchd. Inf. Bn.....
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force)..... 6. Job. (Pl. Cmd. Rfn., etc.) Platoon ldr.
7. Date of Birth..... 27 Jan 1920..... 8. Length of Service..... 8 yrs, 4 mos
9. Peace time occupation..... soldier..... 10. Private address..... 35 S. Tom St.
Webb City, Mo.....
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags, AGO card
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Italian.....

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U.....
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit.....

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BALE OUT.

15. Post in Crew.....
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B. - Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other
occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT.....
- CO-PILOT.....
- NAVIGATOR.....
- BOMBARDIER.....
- RADIO OPERATOR.....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER.....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER.....
- WAIST GUNNER (R.).....
- WAIST GUNNER (L.).....
- TAIL GUNNER.....
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.....
18. Where and when did you come down? Captured near Born, Belgium, 20 Jan 45
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?
Rejoined Allied Forces 11 Feb 45
At PROM, Germany
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?.....

Interview by I.S.9.(WEA)

Date..... 28 Feb 1945
I grade this escape No. 7.Attached:

Appendix "B"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

FORSYTH

Disposal: Returned to GPRC.....

Major

25
McCall took with him two EM, one of whom was ~~named Rosenberg~~ ^(named Rosenberg).
He does not know ~~his unit~~ ^(Rosenberg's), nor the name and unit of the other
man. Rosenberg went out to the latrine and ~~then~~ followed
a gravedigging detail past the guards, then separated from
them and hid, waiting for McCall and the other man, ^(who were) They es-
caped ^(ing) from the window on the third floor by means of blankets
tied together. The man went first, ~~but~~ lost his hold on the
blanket just outside the window and fell three floors to the
concrete court. He lay there stunned for a while, ~~but broke~~
~~no bones~~, and then crawled off. Later, after his recapture,
he ~~started to~~ spit blood from internal injuries. McCall made
the descent without mishap. He collected his two men and
started off in the direction of PRUM. On the road a car came
along with lights on, ^{and} they jumped into a ditch, but a guard
saw them. The German ~~came up to them~~, said something ~~which~~
they couldn't understand and pointed his rifle at them. McCall
saw that ~~xxxxxxx~~ the safety was still on, so ~~he did~~ decided
to bluff. He got out of the ditch, said "Ja" to the guard,
and then walked on down the road followed by the two men. The
guard brought up the rear, apparently not knowing what to do.
He came to a point which might have been the end of his beat
and turned back paying no further attention to them, although
they were all in unmistakable American uniform. About 0300
the next morning, they walked into a German patrol, were re-
captured and taken back to PRUM.

ESCAPE
RED CROSS AND PAROLE FORM

~~THEM~~~~TEN~~~~ST~~~~MINE~~~~XXXXXX~~~~AT~~~~MY~~~~SE~~~~IN~~~~XMAN~~~~XDECK~~~~MAXX~~ By the time
returned
McCall got back to PRUM, the prisoners had moved on to
GEROLSTEIN (K51, WL 2381), and he was sent after them. At
GEROLSTEIN the Germans presented him with a form which they
asked him to sign. He refused, first on principle, and second
because it was written in German. Later one of the *Captain* boys told
him ~~that~~ it was a statement to the effect that if the under-
signed escaped and was recaptured he voluntarily forfeited
all rights as a prisoner of war. It was not a ~~form~~ printed
form, but a statement written for the individual case.
(initials)
Then he was given a Red Cross form. ~~It was printed and the~~
size of a postcard. ~~In the lower corner in small letters was~~

~~Red Cross Form No so and so.~~ It stated that the undersigned was in a transient ~~xx~~ PW camp, was wounded, slightly wounded or not wounded and for the purpose of receiving packages his name, rank and number were as follows.

From here on McCall stayed with Alden, escaped with him and Aldrich, who later disappeared in ~~ERUM~~, and was finally picked up by 22. Inf, 4 Div.

#

Casualty Report

Virgil W. McCall, 1st Lt, O-561566

MC

Capt JOHN O'HORA, 3 Armd Div, was last seen by narrator in the transient prison camp at GEROLSTEIN, Germany where he was tending the wounded US prisoners.

Pvt HENRY ALDRICH, 35 Div, was last seen by the narrator in a house in PRUM, Germany, where Capt Alden, Lt McCall and he were hiding after their escape from the Germans. ALDRICH disappeared from the house without saying anything to his companions.

P/W #X - 1.
AG Cas Etous A II.
File 1