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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1941.

From: The Chief of Naval Operations.
To: All Ships and Stations.
Subject: Instructions regarding precautions to be taken in the event of capture by the enemy.
Enclosure: (A) "Precautions to be taken in the event of falling into the hands of the enemy." .

1. Enclosure (A) has been prepared for the information and guidance of all Naval personnel.
2. The instructions contained in enclosure (A) are to be issued to all officers and men whose duties may bring them into contact with the enemy and make them liable to capture, particularly aviation personnel flying over enemy territory. Commanding Officers shall ensure that all other personnel have a broad knowledge of the principles laid down in enclosure (A).
3. Enclosure (A) shall not be carried in aircraft, nor on the person, when action with the enemy may be imminent.

H. R. STARK

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File 11

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PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN
IN THE EVENT OF FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY

Part I

Information that should be given

According to the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, signed by all the Great Powers, a prisoner of war MUST give his name and rank, o his identity number. In practice, all three should be given.

NO FURTHER INFORMATION WHATSOEVER SHOULD BE GIVEN.

When you have given your name, rank, and number, you are re- quired to give no more. Remember that the enemy dares not carry threat into execution, and a prisoner who systematically refuses to give information is respected by his captors.

Part II

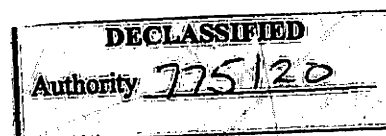
What the enemy will try to find out

1. Any information about any unit of the Air Force, Army, or Navy.
What is your ship?
What is your squadron number?
Where is your ship or squadron stationed?
What is its strength?
Where are other forces stationed?
What have been other recent movements?
Are there any rumors as to future movements?
What do you know about casualties suffered?
2. Information concerning types of ships, types of aircraft, per- formance, new designs, armament, armor, other ships or planes building, and similar facts.
3. Information about bases and facilities in the United States and overseas.
4. Information about training and tactics, both American and Allied.
5. Information about how much we may know of enemy strength and tactics.
6. Information about damage to United States or Allied ships, aircraft, industrial plants, etc., either at home or abroad, either by enemy action or by sabotage.
7. Meteorological information: Anything about the weather, recent or forecast; methods of getting forecasts and reports.

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8. Information concerning home conditions, politics, food supply, civilian and service morale, and labor difficulties.
9. Information concerning defense organization and anti-aircraft facilities at home or at overseas bases.
10. Information concerning all types of technical equipment.

REMEMBER THAT THE MEN TALKING TO YOU ARE YOUR ENEMIES.

Part III

Sources and Methods the enemy may employ to gain information

(These notes are based on fact. They represent the actual experience of men who have been prisoners of war and who know what they are talking about.)

A. Sources

1. Captured material and markings.
2. Papers found.
3. By repeated interrogation; by professing sympathy; by stimulating professional or technical interest; or by threats.
4. Notebooks and diaries, personal letters, and effects.
5. Letters written by and to prisoners of war.
6. Microphones.

B. Methods

1. By impersonating American or Allied prisoners and mixing with genuine prisoners.
2. By using agents such as hospital nurses for attendants who will profess to sympathize.

Remember that the person talking to you may be an enemy. The only man you can be sure is a friend, is a man you knew and were sure of before capture.

3. By use of microphones, which must be expected may be in every room, at every stage of imprisonment.

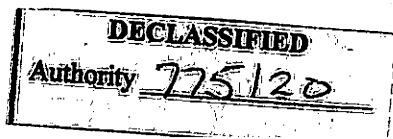
Because you can't find a microphone don't think there isn't one. We know there is, and that the enemy will be listening. So - NEVER TALK SHOP.

4. By suggesting that another officer or man has talked freely, giving the impression that silence is no longer valued.
5. By friendly reception and good treatment on capture, such as being offered drinks.

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6. By renewed interrogation long after capture, not necessarily by direct inquiry, but by casual and seemingly friendly interest.
- SAY NOTHING AND GO ON SAYING IT.

Part IV

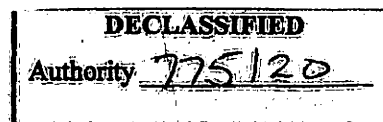
D O N ' T S

1. DON'T carry or allow anyone to carry any papers, official or private, when in a position where capture is even remotely possible. An envelope may give away information. Everything gives some information, even old tickets, bills, etc. As a matter of routine, turn out your pockets when you go aboard ship or prepare for flight, and put no papers of any kind in them until your next liberty.
2. DON'T allow your clothing or personal effects to bear any markings, tabs or indication of your ship or station other than those officially required.
3. DON'T add anything to the information officially placed on your identity disk.
4. DON'T give any information other than your name, rank, and number. If you stick to this the interrogator will be completely defeated.
5. DON'T refer in any circumstances to your ship's movement or your unit's position. A careless word may cost others their lives.
6. DON'T forget that there are expert interrogators who will obtain information from you if you enter into conversation with them on even seemingly unimportant subjects. Silence alone is safe.
7. DON'T try to be clever and invent false information. The interrogators have had great experience and will soon find you out.
8. DON'T talk shop. If you have plans to discuss, do it in the open air, and even then be careful as the trees may have ears.
9. DON'T jump to the conclusion that your room is free from microphones because you can't find one. The enemy has had years of experience at concealment.
10. DON'T believe anything you are told from enemy or possible enemy sources.
11. DON'T address letters so as to indicate the whereabouts of your station or any unit of any service. Letters to shipmates, other officers or men should be addressed to their homes or to the Navy Department.
12. DON'T broadcast. It helps the enemy and is contrary to orders.
13. If while flying you are brought down in enemy territory, make every effort to destroy your aircraft, its equipment, maps, etc. by fire. You have instructions, but DON'T forget the imperative necessity of giving effect to them. Likewise, while in flight, DON'T make any notes on performance or shortcomings of the aircraft, armament, or equipment.

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14. DON'T under any circumstances neglect to make every possible effort to destroy all papers and equipment, and anything that may be used by the enemy.
15. DON'T be downhearted if captured. Opportunities for escape will present themselves. It is the duty of prisoners to make such attempts which in themselves have a very appreciable nuisance value. In accordance with the custom of the service, a U.S. naval officer should not accept liberty on parole.
16. DON'T forget to keep your eyes and ears open. We want information useful to others wishing to escape.
17. If you escape and succeed in arriving in friendly territory, DON'T discuss your experience with anyone at all, whether in the service or otherwise, and DON'T under any circumstances mention the name of any person who may have helped you to escape, until you have been interviewed by proper authorities.
18. DON'T carry these instructions on your person or in aircraft. They are to help you and not the enemy.

Part V

Rights of Prisoners

1. The rights of prisoners of war are fully safeguarded by the Geneva Convention of 1929. A copy of this should be displayed in every camp. Insist on this being done.
2. There is a neutral Protecting Power to whom all serious complaints can be addressed through the camp commandant.
3. If you escape to a neutral country, claim your freedom and report to the nearest American representative.

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