

SURVIVOR



MAGAZINE
Summer 2016



THIS ISSUE:



Comments & Contributions	Page 2
Survivor's Quote	Page 2
What Kind of Jam Are You In?	Page 3
Barrel Cactus	Page 6
Recommended Reading	Page 7
Wallet Sized Survival	Page 10
Egress Plan of Action	Page 10
Survivor's Quote	Page 10

Survivor's Quote:

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Eleanor Roosevelt

American politician, diplomat, activist, and the longest-serving First Lady of the United States.

Comments to the Editor/Publication

If there is a SERE or instructional topic you would like to discuss or to create a forum on, please email it to me. I will post it in the next issue.

Looking for contributions to SURVIVOR Magazine!

**Send your SERE related article and/or pictures to the SURVIVOR Magazine in care of
KasmennB@yahoo.com**

Issue #8; 11 Jul 2016

STAFF

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What Kind of Jam Are You In?

By SURVIVOR Staff

Perhaps it's my age, or how I grew up, or when I grew up, or my basic paranoia, or just my life experiences, or likely it is all of these, but I believe that technology will always fail me when I need it the most. While I enjoy the use of technology especially in regards to SERE and am an advocate of knowing as much of about the capabilities of whatever technology I have to interact with (to try and avoid the human failure aspect), I am also sure there will be a failure in regards to it. That failure can be for many reasons, since technology has natural limitations. Failure issues may be related to energy needed, size, weight, duration, or durability or what is being used. Of course, with every technological advancement developed for isolated personnel (IP), the enemy develops counter-measures creating another limitation and failure point. A simple example: global positioning systems (GPS) can be jammed, compromise, degrade, or completely eliminated. Both the Korea and China regularly use GPS jammers. China and Russia have tested anti-satellite systems i.e. destroy a satellite. There is a whole new generation of jammers which are hand-held size small and built to fit into any vehicle charger. Additionally, as we all know, **ANY** battery operated device has limitations (even with spares). The GPS is no different especially when using the electronic compass feature or just using the device over an extended period of time when evasion is against a near peer adversary.

My solution to counter these failures, as I am sure with most of you, is to have multiple methods to accomplish the desired outcome so even when the technology fails (*which in my mind it always will*) I can still accomplish

**Krasukha-4
Multifunctional Jamming Station
Russian Army**



the task. Having alternative methods to accomplish the

need or mission such as carrying a piece of back-up technology, having an alternative non-technology method, or knowing how to improvise the same effect creating a back-up plan.

The survival need of travel or navigation is no different. For old guys like me, it's a bit easier since I didn't learn off of a GPS, the other methods are pretty much my norm while the GPS had to win my confidence. I remember seeing my first GPS at Kirtland AFB while visiting the SERE guys at the PJ School, it was a Trimble, which looked like something out of Star Trek and I am talking about the original series not the new movies.

Originally the aircrew survival pamphlets contained navigator's methods of determining longitude and latitude which involved some serious charts and celestial aids. While these techniques can still be found in the 1985 Survival Manual, they were taken out of the Survival, Evasion, and Recovery pamphlet in the late 1980s. What I was told was that these techniques involved several charts and a plotter, which didn't seem to be practical. Having attended several of the re-writes (2007-2012) to the multi-service the Survival, Evasion, and Recovery pamphlet the goal is to ensure that the limited space is filled with the most practical and usable information for the isolated personnel even to the point of avoiding any "intentionally left blank" spaces.

Something we all know with the adult learner is the simpler and easier the process is the more likely the person will remember it and use it. The need for simple to use navigational aids; things that are easily used and/or made by the IP to allow them to travel over large and varied expenses of land no matter what climatic conditions and counter-measures the enemy throws at them, seems to be what is called for. Something the IP can use with their issued navigation equipment (compass, GPS, EVC, etc.). So in that vein, I have identify some **natural aids to navigation**.

First and foremost with any natural aid a lot of what you get are general rules. Rules in which you need to apply your situational awareness along with a dose of very practical sense. You need to be aware of why these very **GENERAL** rules occur i.e. moss tends to grow in damp shaded areas which may regularly be on the north side of something in the northern hemisphere, but could just as easily be on the south side of depending on where it's found and what's around it. So look around, try to

determine the cause of what you are seeing, look for other indicators, and ensure you are not fitting what you see to what you want.

Remember these are **GENERAL RULES**, and like much in SERE; it's an **ART not a SCIENCE**. These generalizations/principles need some evaluation to determine if they apply in the situation you find them in.

I am going to limit talking about using the sun, the moon, and celestial aids such as the North Star or the Southern Cross, since these seem pretty much common knowledge. Along with that I will not be going over the stick and shadow, use of the sun and a watch, or other uses of these navigation staples to "make" navigational aids, since again I feel these are pretty common knowledge. Historically these "staples" have been used whenever possible with or without the IP having a compass and/or map. There are multiple accounts of evaders crossing hundreds of miles of enemy territory just using the Sun and North Star. From personal experience, ensure you know who you are teaching and where they are from i.e. individuals who mostly use the Southern Cross may need additional training to find and use the North Star and of course vice versa.

I am also going to avoid going over how the sun and wind effect man-made items and structures, since I have written about those in other articles in this publication. What I am going to try and focus on are when the above mentioned natural navigation "staples" are unavailable.

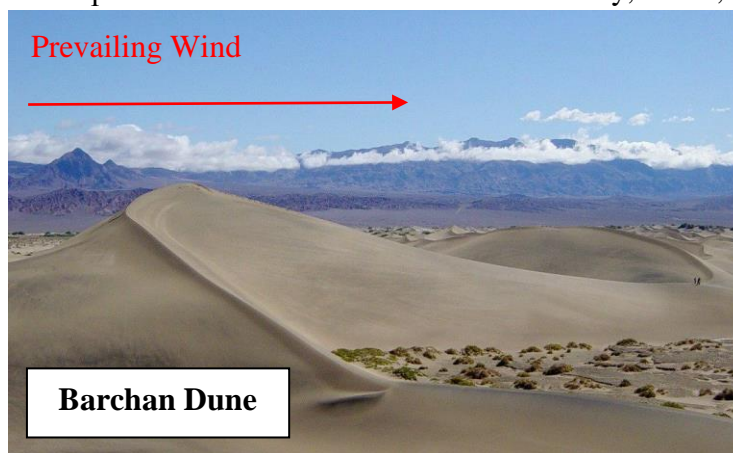
REMEMBER: Always evaluate what you are looking at to determine if it's a navigation indicator. Wind, sun, and weather should be looked at as a **whole** when evaluating any natural navigation aids since as a whole they will affect the indicators list below, possibly giving you misleading information. Remember your situational awareness!

Use of Wind: Most regions have a standardized pattern of prevailing or dominant winds which can be easily learned or briefed prior to being in that region, keeping

in mind that temporary variations can occur to the direction of these prevailing winds. In most temperate climates in the medium latitudes of the Northern or Southern Hemispheres the prevailing wind blows **GENERALLY** from the west. In tropical latitudes, near the equator, the prevailing wind blows **GENERALLY** from the east (called Trade Winds).

Even when these prevailing winds are not blowing, natural signs caused by the wind may help the aware traveler. Spiders cannot lay their webs against the wind, so a general direction maybe orientated from their webs. Most animals to include birds and insects will try and build their homes in protected locations, in so doing protecting themselves from the prevailing winds. In the higher northern and southern latitudes the east side is often the most dry, warm, and protected direction, so

animals will seek to build their homes on the east, south-east, and south sides of areas finding your open bird nests, mice borrows, and other animal entry holes in these sides of trees and outcrops. In the tropics, the west side of a protected area such as a tree or rock outcrop is a likely place for an animal to seek shelter.



Over snow-covered areas the prevailing winds drive the drifting snow into hard pack ridges (from a few inches to several feet) which run parallel with the wind's direction.

In desert areas the prevailing window will again provide indicators. Sand dunes form at 90 degrees to the prevailing wind, so in example if the prevailing wind is from the east, the dunes will run north to south. The crescent-shaped Barchan dunes form in areas where there is less sand, usually on gravel plains. The horns of the dunes will point away from the prevailing wind.

Use of the Sun: Depending on the hemisphere, one side of a mountain/hill slope will **GENERALLY** receive the greatest amount of sunlight/heat from the sun. Southern Hemisphere is northern slope and Northern Hemisphere is southern slope. Which means these sides tend to have more erosion from the heating and cooling (day and night) changes in temperature. And this is very

subjective, but that means in the southern hemisphere the southern inclines are smoother, less eroded, and offer fewer obstacles. While in the northern hemisphere this situation is reversed.

Slopes which face the arc of the sun's day light track will be **more** melted than those tilted away from the sun. Exposed rocks and trees in snow fields will leave a melt shadow where their "bodies" have protected the snow from the sun. This indicator of direction is very usable even when the day or night is overcast. This directional melting effect works even with small debris in the snow (rocks, sticks, leaves, etc.). The debris absorbs more heat than the surrounding snow, creating small melt holes/basins (sometimes with water at the base). The sun's arc traces a consistent semi-circular edge on one side. In the northern hemisphere the southern edge of the melt hole is almost a straight east-west line; while the northern edge is a semi-circle with its arc open to true south. In the southern hemisphere the reverse occurs.

Use of Plants:

Prevailing winds in an area will have the most effect on vegetation.

Prevailing wind can affect a tree's development on the windward side, while the sheltered side may be thicker and look much healthier; giving the observer an indication of prevailing winds. The best method would be to find a tree growing in an exposed location away from the protection of other trees/plants. An exception to this would be the coconut palm which tends to lean into the prevailing winds.

In locations where the wind varies a lot, sunlight will help the tree to grow and produce new growth. I have noticed this a great deal in oaks and in some pines. Again the best method would be to find a tree growing in an exposed location away from the protection of other trees/plants.

The hemisphere you find yourself in will dictate the basic location of the sun, generally providing you thicker vegetation in the opposite cardinal direction than the hemisphere. This goes even to the core of a tree, in Europe and North America the bark of older trees tends to be thicker on the north and north-east sides.

In the deserts of South Africa, there is a plant called the Elephant's Trunk or North Pole plant. This plant's head tends to bend or point in a northern direction.

In North and Central America, the Barrel Cactus has many uses. The Fishhook Barrel Cactus is often called the "Compass Cactus" because large plants tend to lean toward the southwest.

Generally speaking, most plant flowers will lean towards the sun.

Use of Ants:

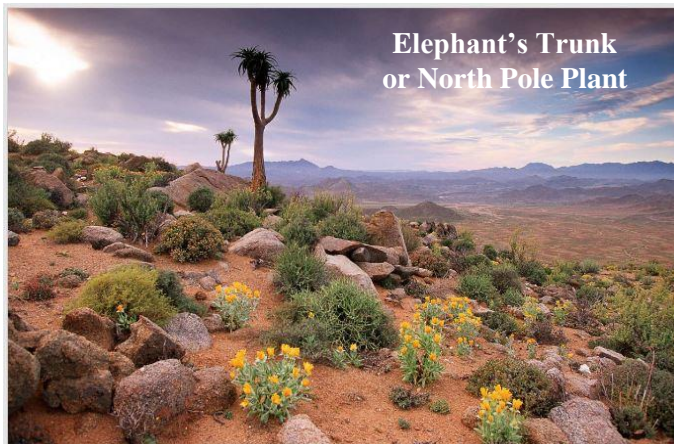
In the areas that have a winter in the Northern Hemisphere, ants and termites will build their colonies to take advantage of the sun. Building their homes to get the greatest warmth means that for the most part they build so that their mounds are facing south or southeast. Ants and termites also show a preference for living on the southern or eastern slopes of hills and mountains, depending on which gets the most heat. Generally, when their homes are built near trees, they are found on the warmer side, which in the Northern

hemisphere is usually the south or southeast side. Obviously, in areas that have a winter in the Southern Hemisphere the opposite directions would occur. In the many desert areas the ants try to stay cool, building their hills in a crater-like form, with the highest side facing the prevailing winds. In Australia and South-West Africa termites will build their mounds with the tip bent towards the north.

Hopefully this article has helped refresh your memory or provided new insight into using natural signs to help determine your direction of travel and get you out of any "jam" you might be in.

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Barrel Cactus

By SURVIVOR Staff

Common Name(s): Fishhook Barrel Cactus, Compass Cactus, and Candy Barrel Cactus

Barrel Cactus - Commonly grows 2-4', but may grow taller reaching up to 6'-10'. It can reach a diameter of 18 to 30 inches or more. Single, barrel-shaped stem with stout ribs, long, hooked central spines. Most barrel cactus have 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inch yellow-green or red flowers growing in a crown near the top of the stem. Fruit are yellow persist on the top of the cactus. Most species bloom April through June, but some will grow into late summer. Dense clusters of spines will sometimes form a cross in the center of the cluster. The flowers and fruit always grow at the top of the plant. Barrel cactus have been known to have a life span is 50-100 years.

Barrel cactus usually grow along desert washes, gravelly slopes and beneath desert canyon walls in all of the hot desert of North America from the Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of southern California, southern Arizona west to Texas and south into Baja, California and central Mexico.

Like many plants of the world, this cactus has numerous uses. Barrel cactus flowers always grow at the top of the plant. They bear no spines and only a few scales. Native Americans boiled young flowers in water to eat like cabbage and mashed older boiled flowers for a drink.

Barrel cactus fruits become fleshy and often juicy when mature, but are not usually considered edible, though they can be cooked and eaten.

Barrel cactus have also been used as a cooking pot by cutting off the top, scooping out



the pulp and inserting hot stones together with food.

The spines have been used as needles, as awls, and even in trapping.

The pulp of barrel cactus has been widely used for making cactus candy (thus one of its common names, candy barrel cactus), but this has also accounted for its destruction and, therefore, protected status in many areas.

In an emergency, the pulp of the stem can be chewed for its food and water content, but obvious care must be taken during such an operation. The taste can vary

greatly depending on species. The interior has been stewed to make a cabbage-like food.

This cactus does contain water, but the water will contain oxalic acid and may cause diarrhea if ingested when the stomach is empty. The amount of water vs oxalic acid is dependent on the time of year and the amount of water the cactus

has been able to obtain. The best way to obtain water from a barrel cactus is to place your boot onto the side of the cactus, start rocking it back and forth until the cactus tips over, exposing the bottom which has few to no spines/thorns. Then slice the bottom free (like an upside down pumpkin) exposing the pulp. Cut out small chunks of the pulp. Wrap the pulp in cloth and twist over a container, the water/liquid will be squeezed out. You can also squeeze the pulp allowing the water to pour along your thumb down into your mouth. Or put the pulp in your mouth and suck the water out.

The common name, Compass Cactus is because the larger barrel cactus will start to lean toward the south-southwest over a period of time.

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Recommended Reading

ESCAPE FROM IDI AMIN'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Author Wycliffe Kato was Assistant Director-General of Civil Aviation in Uganda with responsibility for the whole of East Africa. He was working in Nairobi when in July of 1976 an Air France jet was hijacked to Entebbe. The success of the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the rescue of the hostages, humiliated President Idi Amin Dada. Amin was furious, and sent his thugs from the "State Research Bureau" to round up scapegoats. On Friday, 9 Sep 77, Wycliffe Kato was arrested, searched, beaten and taken to the notorious Nakasero Prison. This prison was the site of countless torture and execution sessions for the victims of Amin's madness. Despite capricious guards, torture, lack of food and water and a general atmosphere of terror, Kato and six of his cellmates managed to escape on 23 September. Amin had planned to execute them by shooting them with bazookas. The situation for Kato and his fellow prisoners was dire. They had no hope of outside assistance in securing their release. The choices for them was clear- attempt escape (maybe dying in the process) or, sits and passively wait for a madman to murder them. They chose to risk all, and if they had to die, they would rather die like men with dignity.

AUTHOR: Wycliffe Kato

CONFLICT/COUNTRY/DATE/TYPE OF CAPTIVITY: Uganda/September 1977/Political Prisoner held in Nakasero State Research Centre in Kampala, Uganda

NOTABLE QUOTES:

WHY DEFEAT RESTRAINTS: p. 35-

"Although Kasujja was a wise-acre he was also highly intelligent and creative. It was he who fashioned the cunning instrument which eased us the torture of having to sleep with handcuffs on."

p. 48: "Having solved the problem of handcuffs, we tackled the others."

p. 44- "...Kasujja had found a small piece of metal in the rubbish and had painstakingly ground it to a sharp

point against the concrete floor. He had then used it to release the spring on his handcuffs until they opened. Sleeping on a bare floor is bad enough but doing so in handcuffs makes any sleep difficult and uncomfortable. From that time on, every night after lights went out, Kasujja opened the right-hand cuffs to make sleeping easier."

MOTIVE TO ESCAPE: p. 43- "Nobody had ever escaped from Nakasero, but in trying to we had nothing to lose. We knew we'd eventually be killed whether or not we attempted to escape, so the sensible thing was to work out a plan. ...All of us knew tomorrow's firing squad or one the day after, or soon, would be for us. It was important we act quickly."

p. 137- "It is better we die of gunshots while climbing fences to freedom than die of similar shots while tied to a tree or an empty petrol drum."

ESCAPE ROUTE: p. 43- "We had a long and careful look at the four ventilators at the top of the (cell) wall. They opened out at ground level and each was about three feet long and one and a half feet high. They contained several thick iron bars embedded deep into the

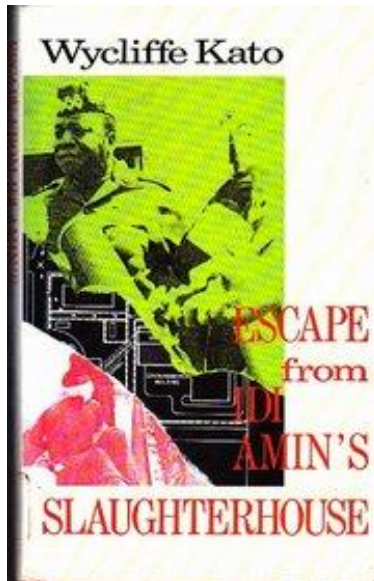
massive concrete walls. Behind the bars were two layers of hard wire gauze and behind the wire were slanting glass louvers."

p. 72- "This was all we could plan until the day came when Okech was ordered to take out our toilet bins. These were emptied behind the building and provided him with first-hand information on our intended escape route."

p. 102- "Another opportunity for reconnaissance had come when we were all called outside to push a trailer.

Annoyingly enough, and as if they had an inkling of our intentions, the guards sent one of their number to sit by the corner facing us as we pushed with maximum slowness at the vehicle and memorized every detail we could.

CHALLENGES: p. 44- "We remembered from our childhood experiences that whatever a head can go through the rest of the body can follow. If we could get rid of the gauze and glass and make a space to lever away at the bars, without being detected and before the



deadline of the firing squad, we had a chance, however slim. We had a two-fold problem: we were handcuffed and we had no tools of any sort.”

p. 94- “We used a piece of string to measure the size of the hole against our shoulders. We also simulated our escape by leaving a gap between two old boxes on the floor. One of us sat on each box to keep it steady while the rest of the group wriggled through.”

BEING POLITE HAS BENEFITS- GUARD

MANIPULATION: p. 45- “Earlier on, when trying to open my handcuffs, we had realized that my left one could be pulled off with force. I gave the guard my right hand and he opened the handcuff so I could shower properly: after the shower I asked (a fellow prisoner) to relock it loosely. When my turn came for locking, the guard merely thanked me for being a good prisoner who willingly locked his own handcuffs. From then on I, too, had easy nights.”

KEEPING GUARDS AWAY FROM THE CELL: p. 55- “The strategy was to ask anyone who approached the gate for a cigarette. This made us unpopular with the guards, so much so that everyone walked off hurriedly muttering insults and making our objective that much easier.”

p. 79- “We further tightened our security and also slightly modified our cigarette trick. Now whenever guards came to check on us, we sent two or three people to the gate to confuse them with gabble and obstruct their view into the cell.

TENACITY: p. 61- “After three days of cautious, strength-sapping and nerve-racking labour, one of the two bars began to bend, but only very slightly”

USE OF CODE WORDS: p. 55- “Our code words for Amin’s thugs were ‘rat’ in English, Luganda (messe) and Swahili (panya). We deliberately selected these words because of the great number of rats that infested our cells. Mentioning ‘rat’ served two purposes: the first was to alert our friends and the second was intended for Kasujja at the gate to start a conversation on a worthwhile topic Amin’s thugs could easily follow.”

COVERING THEIR REAL ACTIONS: p. 70- “We needed good cover but there had to be variations to make things appear normal. One cover was a game of draughts with beer-bottle tops. We always left it arranged in such a way that whoever came to check on

us would find the pieces laid out on the board as if the game had begun a while ago.”

p. 71- “The cigarette diversion was probably the best of all. Although only a few of us smoked we all pretended to, so that when one of us was given a cigarette we all shared it in the presence of the guard who’d given it to us. In most instances he would be amused and even laugh. The trick continued with the aim of pestering whoever came our way for cigarettes.”

BEND BARS QUIETLY: p. 60- “Initially there was considerable undesirable noise from the metal rubbing against metal, but we eliminated this by rolling old shirts around the base before inserting it.”

PATTERN ANALYSIS: p. 52- “Working at night involved too many risks. Noise travels far at night and we could never know who might be listening outside. We decided to post night-watches to ascertain what was happening outside. We established that the guards went around the back of the building- our proposed escape route- every even hour, which meant 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. were the hours most favourable for our plan.”

p. 137- “Zero hour had always been 1 a.m. because then the sentries had finished their midnight patrol and wouldn’t do their rounds again until 2 a.m. It was the period of deepest sleep for the guards.”

IMPROVISED TOOLS: p. 49- “...we scrambled around among the rubbish until we had quite a treasury of old nails, spoons and other pieces of metal.”

BREAKING GLASS QUIETLY: p. 51- “Among all the other junk in the cell were the dirty sacks on which we slept and a collection of blood-stained, filthy old shirts and trousers previously owned by those the firing squad had killed, those killed in the cell or those slaughtered in the extermination room on the ground floor, directly above us. We urged Ssekalo to cover each piece of louver with a bundle of the clothes before breaking it. This suppressed the sharpness of the noise, dulling it, just like firing a gun with a silencer.”

CAPTURE METHODOLOGY AND SECURITY USED: Detained at the airport for “questioning”. Then put into the back seat of a car with six security personnel and driven to the prison.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CAPTORS: p. 45: (untrained thugs of Amin’s tribe) “None of our guards ever knew about, or even suspected, our achievement,

(handcuff defeat) probably because they were untrained as prison warders. As far as they were concerned we were potential corpses, not prisoners. This was a small but vital triumph we managed to keep entirely secret.”

SECURITY CONDITIONS: p. 120: “The guards were convinced we couldn’t conceivably escape through the concrete walls; all that concerned them was an upstairs escape which is why the padlocks were changed daily.”

INTERROGATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION CONDUCTED: Taken upstairs and beaten for false confessions, *any* confessions.

ESCAPE PLAN: Escape their basement cell by clearing a ground level ventilation shaft of obstructions, sneaking through the prison compound (over, under or through numerous fences) to the outside. Once in the city, split up and evade recapture by Amin’s troops. The author made his way to Nairobi, Kenya.

ESCAPE COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION: A group of likeminded prisoners in the same cell.

ESCAPE TOOLS/AIDS WERE USED / IMPROVISED: A homemade handcuff pick made all other efforts possible. To attack the iron bars (to bend them) they used two cast-iron film projector stands that had been stored in their cell in the rubbish. The first one they used broke, so they dismantled the other stand and used it successfully. p. 60- “Using only his fingers at first he removed piece after piece and fashioned some in such a way that they could be used to dismantle the rest of the projector. It took him a full day to unscrew one stand.”

WHAT DID ESCAPER BREACH: They bent iron bars, removed/cut away two layers of wire mesh, broke and removed glass window louvers. All these obstacles were inside a ventilation shaft.

SPECIAL NUTRITION AND EXERCISE: Weren’t fed well, which helped them slim down. They had a narrow space to squeeze through (the iron bars), and to crawl/wriggle through (the ventilator shaft).

CONCEALMENT AREA AND DEVICES: p. 55- “Our other precaution was to hide the hole we had made in the ventilator. Since we had removed a section of the multi-coloured louvres and the wire gauze, more light was now coming through. We’d purposely selected the ventilator in the left-hand corner nearest the gate because it was the most difficult to see from the gate,

but even without the light, the hole was visible from the cell gate. We put up a small rail from which we hung a shirt so that it obscured the hole. Then we folded up a few sacks and put them in the ventilator. This looked quite normal because every morning we swept the cell and hung up any bedding.”

POST-ESCAPE EVASION: p. 142- “It had been agreed that once outside the cell there would be no talking, save for an emergency, only signs would be used.”

p. 155- “My own escape (hear he means his evasion so to speak, into Kenya...) was unmitigated hell; a time came when I’d even wished I’d been shot and killed in the cell rather than endure further misery.”

SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRY: p. 163- “...my Swahili was good and so was my knowledge of the tribes and local cultures, especially in western Kenya. I walked on with growing confidence, speaking to as many people as possible along the way, partly to brush up my Swahili and partly to maintain my confidence.”

FEELING OF FREEDOM: p. 142- “What a change! The air of freedom was heady but the fear of gunshots made some of us tremble. ...We felt as if we’d just risen from the dead. We were in a new world.”

p. 163- “I felt I was now safe. It was again freedom, liberty and democracy for me. I was in a different world, a world where freedom of speech prevailed. The air had a spectacular taste; I felt I’d stepped into heaven where there is joy and justice for all.”

ESCAPE PHILOSOPHY DESCRIBED: Literally do or die...The escapers took turns keeping each other’s spirits up and agreed that they wouldn’t leave anyone behind- not even the one legged guy. In the end though, the one guy who was too fat to squeeze through the bars agreed to sacrifice himself (stay behind) so the escape attempt could be carried out prior to any planned execution dates. They had no idea when they would be pulled from their cell and put to death. The man, who stayed behind, Warrant Officer John Okech, was eventually killed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: The author stayed in exile, returning to Uganda in 1980, only after Amin was overthrown (in 1979).

Wallet Edition SERE

The idea is to provide a wallet-sized card that can be laminated and carried in a survival kit, every day carry/kit, or in your wallet. How to use:

- Print this page
- Cut out along the dotted lines
- Fold over – at small print *FOLD HERE*
- Laminate
- Carry

Size up the situation – yourself – the country- the enemy.
Undue haste makes waste. Keep your temper – face the facts.
Remember where you are.
Vanquish fear and panic.
Improvise.
Value living.
Act like those around you.
Live through being well trained.

FOLD HERE

Ten Rules from “Staying Alive in the Arctic”:

1. You must help yourself.
2. Always prepare yourself for a possible emergency.
3. Tell someone where you are going/when you will return.
4. Never leave home, camp, or travel alone.
5. Don’t fight the environment.
6. Know basic first aid.
7. Know how to protect yourself from the environment.
8. Obtain water.
9. Conserve heat.
10. Use your head.

Survivor’s Quote:

“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.”

“Each man is questioned by life; and he can only answer to life by answering for his own life; to life he can only respond by being responsible.”

Viktor Frankl

Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist, and author, as well as a Holocaust survivor.

Egress Plan of Action

By SURVIVOR STAFF



**High Tailed Lady, #43-38028
B-17 of the 838th Squadron 15-
Mar-45, shot up and crash landed
in Poland**

During World War II, aircrew members who thought about, planned, and practiced egress procedures were more likely to get out of the aircraft in an emergency (82% greater

chance). Historically those aircrew members that had planned and practiced ditching and bailout procedures, after having done it once without practice, noted a marked increase in their abilities and even more importantly a marked decrease in injuries and fatalities compared to their first time experiences. This familiarization did not just apply to their knowledge and hands-on experience in airframe egress systems, but those that took an active interest in their survival and life support equipment felt more confident and assured when they had to use those same items. Since this was before SERE Specialists and Aircrew Flight Equipment Technicians, the care and maintenance of the equipment was sometimes left to



chance, unless the aircrew took an active role.



This attitude can be adapted to any type of emergency evacuation or disaster preparedness. Simply put, the more

knowledgeable, preparation, and hands-on practice you have, the more likely you are to properly manage an emergency situation and use the resources available to get out and survive!