

Clark G. McCarthy, 1st Lt., 0806841 RAO  
Thomas M. Gerbing, 2d Lt., 0-1635924 1396  
John D. McSweeney, Jr., 2d Lt., 0811206 1397  
Elmer C. Hardy, 2d Sgt., 16081869  
Joseph L. Knight, T/Sgt., 12082787  
Byron M. Houser, T/Sgt., 33366957  
Joseph Elsleger, Jr., Sgt., 33675567  
John A. Morris, 8d Sgt., 39319526  
James A. Eckert, 8d Sgt., 35362976

See 1144  
check MIA.  
dispositions with  
P/W cards  
Change if  
necessary

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

ECKERT JAMES H S/Sgt 35362976  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

20 Complete (No. of missions)

578 392  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: Don't know

Date mission in action: 6/23/44

Date arrived in UK: 8-31-44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what  
happened to each man  
and how you know.

|                    |                       |  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| PILOT              | <u>McCarthy</u>       | <u>Don't know</u>                      |
| CO-PILOT           | <u>New Man</u>        | <u>Don't know</u>                      |
| NAVIGATOR          | <u>Mc Sweeney</u>     | <u>Don't know</u>                      |
| BOMBARDIER         | <u>Elmer C Hardy</u>  | <u>Injured Interphone conversation</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR     | <u>New Man</u>        | <u>Don't know</u>                      |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER  | <u>New Man</u>        | <u>Don't know</u>                      |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>None</u>           |  |
| WAIST GUNNER       | <u>John H Morris</u>  | <u>Bailed out</u>                      |
| WAIST GUNNER       | <u>New Man</u>        | <u>Bailed out</u>                      |
| TAIL GUNNER        | <u>James A Eckert</u> | <u>Bailed out</u>                      |

Decorations: Air Medal 1 Oak leaf cluster

Date of Birth: Feb. 9, 1904

Private Address: R.R. 2 La Porte Indiana

Length of Service: 2 Years

Job as Civilian: Sheet Metal and factory worker

From what field did you take off? Take off time, Wendling. App. 17.30

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? To my knowledge Yes

Were you wounded? Give details. No

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

*No*

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

*No*

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

*No*

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

*London 1 Sept 44*

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

*31 Aug. by air from  
Laval, France.*

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

SECRET  
HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Eckert James H S/pt 35362976  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Sept. 1, 1944  
(Date)

392 Bomb. Gp. 578 Bomb Sq.  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT  
CO-PILOT  
NAVIGATOR  
BOMBARDIER  
RADIO OPERATOR  
TOP TURRET GUNNER  
BALL TURRET GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
TAIL GUNNER

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

If any further information is required concerning this report detailed application should be made to I.S.9 (WEA) G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F. giving the E and E Report No.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

I.S. 9 (WEA) Hq.....3

P/W & X Det. MIS ✓

G-2 Div., SHAEF

(Less App. "C" & "D")

File

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

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

**For All Personnel.**

EVE#1304

1. No. 35262976 Rank s/Sgt Name James A. ECKERT  
 (U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster; 20 missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 578th Bomb Sq  
Tail Gunner
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 392d Bomb Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.)
7. Date of Birth 9 February 1904 8. Length of Service 2 years
9. Peace time occupation Sheet metal and 10. Private address ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
factory worker RR 2, La Porte, Indiana.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? E & E photos, dogtags
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Little French

**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 BAILE OUT**

15. Post in Crew Tail Gunner
  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              | <u>McCarthy</u>       | - | <u>unknown</u>    |
| CO-PILOT           | <u>unknown</u>        |   |                   |
| NAVIGATOR          | <u>McSweeney</u>      | - | <u>unknown</u>    |
| BOMBARDIER         | <u>Elmer C. Hardy</u> | - | <u>wounded</u>    |
| RADIO OPERATOR     | <u>unknown</u>        |   |                   |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER  | <u>unknown</u>        |   |                   |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | <u>none</u>           |   |                   |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.)  | <u>John A. Morris</u> | - | <u>bailed out</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.)  | <u>unknown</u>        |   |                   |
| TAIL GUNNER        | <u>narrator</u>       |   |                   |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-24, Wendling, Norfolk; 1730 23 June 1944  
Between Laon and Sissonne; 23 June 1944
  18. Where and when did you come down?
  19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? hid them in woods
  20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Plane crashed and burned

Secret

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

EVASION CAPTURE ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

James A. BACON

Name

Rank

(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)

Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster; 20 missions

Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions)

Were you wounded? Give details

Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2nd (Air Force)

Tail Gunner

Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 32nd Bomb Gp

2 years

Date of Birth

Peace time occupation

factory worker

MR S. La Porte, Indiana.

Private address

Sheet metal and

REPAIRS

Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph?

I & B photos, dog tags

Do you speak French, or any other foreign language?

little French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

No. and location of O.T.U.

No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

Tail Gunner

Post in Crew

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.

unknown

McGerty

PILOT

unknown

CO-PILOT

unknown

McGerty

NAVIGATOR

wounded

James C. Hardy

BOMBARDIER

unknown

RADIO OPERATOR

unknown

TOP TURRET GUNNER

none

BALL TURRET GUNNER

bailed out

John A. Morris

WAIST GUNNER (R.)

unknown

WAIST GUNNER (L.)

unknown

TAIL GUNNER

Secret

Forwarded to Brook St. with strategic information, but  
no tactical information.

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date

30 August 1944

Attached:

Appendix "B"

"C"

"D"

Briefly interrogated

I grade this evasion No 23

Robert H. Bacon  
ROBERT BACON,

2nd Lt, AC.

Returned to unit.

Disposal:

Major

S/SGT ECKERT

Sgt. Eckert came down on 23 June 1944 between LAON and ~~SESSONNE~~ SISSONNE. He walked for three days, was then found by a Frenchman who gave him food and civilian clothes, and after walking six more days was picked up by a farmer at ~~SERZY-ET~~ SERZY-ET-PRIN (MARNE). This farmer took Eckert to his home in the village, fed him, and then took him to ~~the home of a man who owns a gasoline station~~ CRUGNY to the home of a man who owns a gasoline station. (This man lives with his wife and three daughters, JACQUELINE (17 years old), JOSEPH (about 11 years old), ~~MONT & SUE~~ MONIQUE (about two or three years old). A Frenchman who could speak some English called for Eckert here and took him to TRAMERY for a day and then to the woods near CHAUMUZY. Here Eckert remained for a month in a small maquis camp with a man named ~~PIERRE from TRAMERY~~, DANIEL MANCIER from SARCY, F/O Stewart W. Gerard (RCAF), Jeff Salisbury (RAF), and Harry Brown (RAF). Gerard and Eckert were then taken to the farm of JULES TRUCHON near CHAUMUZY where they ~~stayed~~ stayed a few days, and Eckert was then moved to the home of LOUIS MANCIER (DANIEL's father) in ~~Sarcy~~ SARCY. He lived there ten days. Then he and Gerard were taken to another farm 6 or 8 kms away, because PIERRE shot a German officer and ~~there~~ there was danger of a German search in the district. Three days later Eckert set out to walk to the Allied lines by himself. He reached LA FERTE GAUCHER after walking two days. There he asked a Frenchman for his location and was told that there were many Germans in the district ahead of him. This man, M. EUGENE ST. MARS of POULIGNY PAR JOUY SUR MORIN (S. et M.), took Eckert into his home and kept him in hiding until 27 August. That night an American scout who had run into a German ambush was brought into the house. The next morning this scout and Eckert went out on to the road and stopped a Red Cross jeep which took them to the VII Armored Division at CONDE EN BRIE. Eckert was interrogated for tactical information there and then passed back to NEMOURS where Capt. Purdy briefed him on security and arranged to send him to LAVAL. There he was given orders and transportation to U.K. where he arrived on 1 September.

Cherries

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Eckert

Unit:-

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box? *Yes*
- b. If not, why?
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".
- Horlicks tablets. *For hunger*
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *For hunger*
- Milk (tube). *None*
- Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *1 to ward off fatigue while traveling*
- Halazone tablets (water purifier).
- Matches. *To light cigarettes*
- Adhesive tape. *Still have it*
- Chewing gum. *Chewed it to ward off fatigue*
- Water bottle. *Did not use*
- Compass. *For traveling cross country*
- Sewing kit. *Did not use*
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *All satisfactory*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Burnt it*
- f. Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?  
*Placing a fishing hook in sewing kit*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes*  
State color of stripes and letters. *Mark III Red stripes*  
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *Yes*

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Sheet A

Compass.

Yes

File (hacksaw).

None in my purse

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

France ~~100~~ Franc

How did you spend the money?

Paying for clothing, for crossing stream

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Lost two. Returned one

Compass.

Still have it

File (hacksaw).

Did not have one

Surplus currency.

~~Still have it~~

705 francs turned  
in to 63 Bowle St.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

Yes

If so, how many?

9

b. Did you use them?

Used three trying to get identity cards

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

Yes

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Topeka, Kansas. Before departing  
for overseas service.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

Yes

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

A Frenchman who could speak some English took me + turned me over to others who took me to ~~TRAMERY~~ TRAMERY. There I stayed 1 day + then took me to a woods to a thatched hut near village of CHAUMUZY. (A Frenchman named PIERRE from TRAMERY + one named DANIEL in resistance stayed there with me, a Canadian F/O Stewart W. Gerard, an English <sup>front-line</sup> Jeff Salisbury (RAF), + a Scotch engineer, Harry Brown (RAF). Went on a few sabotage missions with resistance here. Stayed here about a month. Then Gerard + I were taken to a farm near CHAUMUZY where we stayed a few days + then I was taken to SARCY where I played deaf + dumb for about ten days living with LOUIS MANCIER. Then PIERRE shot a

son of  
LOUIS  
MANCIER

M. Eugene ST. MARS  
POULIGNY  
S. MORIN

German + Gerard + I were taken to another farm about 6 or 8 kms away. Stayed there 2 1/2 days. Then on 3rd day (16 Aug) I went back to SARCY to get my escape material + left on my own walking S.W. I walked for 2 days to LA FERTE GAUCHER + stopped a farmer for my location. He told me there were lots of Germans ahead of me + offered to hide me. He hid me until 27 August when they brought in an American scout who had run into a German ambush. He stayed with us that night. Next morning I went out + stopped a Red Cross Dept. He took the two of us to III Armored

Turned in our bomb run. Hit by flak.  
Heard pilot order that bombs be salvaged +  
navigator called nose-gunner hit. One w-g.  
came back + told me to come to waist.  
I helped Morris put on his chute + the other  
w-g. went out hatch. Then Morris bailed  
out. I went back to tail, got my chute,  
+ bailed out.

I saw one chute below me + saw a  
ship go down + burst into flames. I hit  
hard in a corner of a forest between  
LAON + SISSONE, <sup>+ W.W.</sup> hid my chute + ran  
along edge of woods + over into another  
patch of wood + lay down. I started  
west + almost ran into LAON. So I  
backtracked + started S. I walked thru  
woods + fields for 2 days, walking early  
in morning + late in the evening. On  
3 day a <sup>found me eyeing bushes</sup> Frenchman picked me up + gave  
me civilian clothes. I went on S for  
6 days + then came to village of  
SERZY ET PRIN where I stopped a farmer  
to ask whether there were Germans in the  
village. He brought me food + took me  
to his house in village for bath +  
clothes. That evening they took me to  
CRUGNY + I stayed 2 days with  
friends of his (a man + wife + 3 daughters,  
- gasoline station proprietor -  
I was 17 (Jacqueline) I was about  
" (Joseph) + one 213 (Monique)

Division to CONDE EN BRIE. A Lt Col.  
interrogated me about military information.  
They then put me with MPs who took  
me to Chateau Thierry + thence by  
truck to a food dump SW of PROVINS.  
Thence with courier to H. Q. of II Army  
near Pithiviers. There with MPs over night.  
Then to a P/W cage near Nemours (30 Aug).  
There I saw Capt. Purdy when I got orders  
+ went to Chartres by truck + then to  
LAVAL by C47 + from there a Colonel, at  
orders + we flew to D. K. Grove. To  
63 Brook St at 1 Sept.

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

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.

### GERTIFICATE

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) ECKERT JAMES H Signed James A Eckert  
Rank S/Sgt A. S. N. 35362976 Dated Sept 1, 1944  
Unit 392 Bomb Gp 578 Bomb Sgd Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

# RESTRICTED

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,.....)

*In hand of Allied forces*

E# 1304  
CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 35362976 Rank S/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) James A. Eckert

Unit 578<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, 392d Bomb Grp.

has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on 30 Aug 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Robert H. Bacon  
2/Lt, Major AC.

IMPORTANT.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.  
M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

airports, radar, underground railroad.  
If returned to the UK, he will report  
to 63 Brook St, London.

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should be re-interrogated.

IMPORTANT.

M.I.2. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.2 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X. DET.  
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)