

REF 1552

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-791612 Rank Capt MECKE  
 Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Harold J. Mecke  
 Unit 451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Sq, 322<sup>d</sup> Bomb Grp 9<sup>th</sup>

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)  
 on 6 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

*MIE 8 July*

*Robert Bacon*  
 Major *2/4, Ae.*

IMPORTANT:

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

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S.9(WEA) PERSONNEL

SEPT. 7, 1944  
(Date)

MECKE, HAROLD J. CAPT 0-791612  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

V-1 Bg. 59  
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: JULY 8

Returned to UK: SEPT 7, 1944

451ST BOMB SQDN. 322ND GP.  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT	SIMLER, G.B. <sup>IV serge</sup> MAJ. 0-791733	RETURNED TO U.K.	PTD 1554
CO-PILOT	MOSER, E.B. <sup>PHARD</sup> 2nd 0752071	"	PTD 1556
NAVIGATOR	MECKE, HAROLD <sup>H.J.</sup> CAPT 0-791612	"	(Wounded) 1552
BOMBARDIER	BRIGHT, C.W. <sup>hanks</sup> 1st 0-672929	"	PTD 1555
RADIO OPERATOR	1/ST HILL, G.R. <sup>G.R.</sup> 13092901	CAPTURED BY GERMANS MIA	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	1/ST TIPPETT, Robert <sup>G.</sup> 36406654	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER			
WAIST GUNNER			
WAIST GUNNER			
TAIL GUNNER	1/ST WINSTEAD, James <sup>W.</sup> 14151496	MIA	

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. JULY 8 0145

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
APPROX 7 MI. W. DOULLENS  
CONTROLS KNOCKED OUT YES IN NAVIGATOR'S COMPARTMENT

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 8,000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? NO

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

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? NO IT BURNED

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

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.  
YES

(over)

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

NO

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.

NO

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

PILOT, CO PILOT AND BOMBARDIER WERE WITH ME.

I HAVE WORD FROM THE FRENCH THAT THE GUNNERS WERE CAPTURED

Were you wounded?

NO

Were you in German hands?

NO

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

YES

I was helped

by the same people who helped LT BLIGHT

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

D HINAUT JEAN  
2) RUE PETAIN  
A RUMAUCOURT  
P.D.C

What security briefing were you given?

COMPLETE

What souvenirs do you still possess?

NONE

Home address. ROUTE 1, FLORENCE, ALABAMA.

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

THREE SERGEANTS FROM OUR AIRCRAFT

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

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

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P/W and X Detachment  
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CO-PILOT MOSEY, E.B. 2nd Lt. 0-752071 " " RFD 1556

NAVIGATOR MECKE, Harold Capt. 0-791612 " (Wounded) 1552

BOMBARDIER BRIGHT, C.W. 1st Lt. 0-672929 " RFD 1555

RADIO OPERATOR 1st Lt HILL, G.R. 13092901 CAPTURED BY GERMANS - MIA

~~TOP TURRET GUNNER~~ Sgt TIPPETT, Robert J. - 36406654 " - MIA

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIIST GUNNER

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~~Major~~ 2/Lt, AC.

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 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

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

EVASION CAPTURED/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel

- 1. No. 0-791612 Rank Capt. Name HAROLD J. MECKE  
(U.S. Army, Navy, or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.; No. of ribbons) 59 missions, D.F.C., air medal 9 oak leaf clusters
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 451st Bomb. Sqn.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 322nd 6. Job. (Pl. Unit, Rm., etc.) Sqn. Navigator
- 7. Date of Birth 2 June 1921 8. Length of Service 4 yrs. 10 mos.
- 9. Peace time occupation Student 10. Private address R.R. 1, Florence Alabama
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification or photographs? PW Pictures
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR P.A.F. ONLY

- 13. No. and location of C.T.U. ....
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit. ....

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

- 15. Post in Crew Navigator
- 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 SEE LT. BLIGHT'S REPORT
- RADIO OPERATOR .....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER .....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER .....
- WATER GUNNER (R.) .....
- WATER GUNNER (L.) .....
- TAIL GUNNER .....

- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-26 816-T, July 8
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Approx. 7 miles W. Doullens
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hid in bushes
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Interview by I.S. 9 (WEA)

Date 6 Sep 1944

Attached:

- Appendix XX
- Appendix XX
- Appendix XX

*Robert Bacon*  
ROBERT BACON  
2nd Lt., AC

Disposal: Returned to unit.

Major

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq. I.S.9(WEA).....	3	
12th Army Group.....	2	(less C)
G-2 TUSA .....	1	( " )
G-2 FUSA .....	1	( " )
9 AF .....	1	( " )

# 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) HAROLD J. MECKE Signed Harold J. Mecke  
Rank CAPT A. S. N. O-791612 Dated SEPT 7, 1944  
Unit 451st Bomb Sqdn, 322nd Bomb GP Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED