

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

1645

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-792252 Rank 1st Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) JOSEPH P. GONET

Unit 450 Bomb. Sqdn. 322 Bomb. Gp.

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)  
on 7 Sep 1944 19     and has signed a Security Certificate.

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



EDWARD P. ARNOLD  
Capt., AD Major

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.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks  
Street, London.

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

EVASION CAPTURED/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Name of Country) ... **France**

For all Personnel.



- 1. No. **0-792252** Rank **1st Lt.** Name **Joseph P. GONET**
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) **Air Medal, DFC 42 missions**
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. **No**
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) **450 Bomb. Sqn.**
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) **322 Bomb. Gp.** Job (Pl. Cmd. D.Fn., etc.) **Pilot**
- 7. Date of Birth **12 Feb. 1915** 8. Length of Service **2 yrs., 8 mos.**
- 9. Peace time occupation **State Police** 10. Private address **714 Third Avenue Brooklyn, N.Y.**
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? **Dogtags**
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? **No**

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 **Co-Pilot**
- 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 **Believed captured**
- CO-PILOT **Narrator**
- NAVIGATOR **Unknown**
- BOMBARDIER **Killed**
- RADIO OPERATOR **Believed killed**
- TOP TURRET GUNNER **Believed killed**
- BALL TURRET GUNNER **Unknown**
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) **Believed killed**
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) **Unknown**
- TAIL GUNNER **Unknown**

- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure **B-26, Nantes, 19 July 1944, 1600**
- 18. Where and when did you come down? **Nantes**
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? **Abandoned them as Germans were near**
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? **Yes**

Interview by I.S.9. (WEA)

Date **7 Sep 1944**

Attached:

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

I grade this evasion No. 5.

*Edward P. Arnold*

EDWARD P. ARNOLD  
Capt., AC

Major

Disposal: **Returned to unit.**

DISTRIBUTION:

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

I was shot down at Nantes 19 July 1944. I walked for 6 days from Nantes to Cognac. Outside Cognac I met a farmer who took me to someone who ~~xxxx~~ spoke English and who knew a member of the Maquis. He took me to a farm and told me to wait until the Maquis picked me up. I was picked up about 6 or 7 days later and was taken to a castle where I met five other Americans--Lt. Herbert Brill, Lt. Barney Koller, Sgt. Wm. H. Weber, Sgt. J.M. Gorrett, and Sgt. Norman Benson. There was also an Englishman here, Michael McPartford. He was captured during the Dieppe Raid and they tried to make him reveal the names of the officer of his ship. He claimed that the Germans had smashed his finger tips and toes with a hammer, used matches under his nails, and that they had knocked out his front teeth with the butt of a pistol. He claimed to have escaped from them three times, the last time from a hospital in Paris.

About the middle of August the other Americans and I, with the exception of Sgt. Brill, took off on our own and headed north. About twenty miles north we met another Maquis group. There we met an American major of the paratroopers who advised us to stay at a nearby farm with six other Americans--Lt. Lew Stillyes, Lt. William E. Massey, Lt. Richard H. Grant, Sgt. Eddie Guiday, Sgt. Charlie Flukinger, Sgt. Francis J. Berard. I stayed here about two weeks and decided to cross the lines at Nantes. I was stopped at St. Pronant by two FFI men who thought I was a German. They took me to their camp and I stayed there three days when the Chief of the camp said that they would take me to the American lines. They took me to la Boche-sur-Yon to another Maquis camp where I met another American paratrooper major who drove me to Nantes.

I carried an aids box which used during my walk from Nantes to Cognac. I did not carry a purse. I had been briefed in the briefing room before the raid but this did not prove to be of much help. S-2 officers should use up to date information when briefing.

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

7 Sept. 1944  
(Date)

Joseph P. Gonet, 1st Lt. 0-792252  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Nantes 42  
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: 19 July

Returned to UK: 7 Sept.

450th Bomb. Sqd., 322nd Bomb. Gp.  
(Unit)

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

PILOT Deen — Prisoner

CO-PILOT Gonet, J. P.

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER ?

RADIO OPERATOR ?

TOP TURRET GUNNER ?

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIIST GUNNER

WAIIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER ?

} Believed the rest of crew went down with ship. Wing shot off & ship spun out of control.  
Don't know names of members of crew as I was only filling in as a spare.

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. 19 July outskirts of Nantes

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

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 6000

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

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? Pilot & Co-pilot - yes.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? ? saw it on fire

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? saw pilot in chute about 1500 feet.

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.

No.

(over)

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

No. Germans around it. (ship was burning)

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?

Believe that other members of crew went down with ship as ship was out of control and the men had chest chutes. Don't believe they had time to get them.

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?

No

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

None

What security briefing were you given?

No

What souvenirs do you still possess?

None

Home address. 714 Third Ave., Bklyn., N.Y.

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

Lt. Deen

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

1. Lt. Herbert Brill
2. Lt. Barney Koller
3. Lt. Lew Stelljes
4. Lt. Wm. E. Massey
5. Lt. Richard H. Grant
6. Sgt. Wm. A. Weber
7. Sgt. Jack M. Garrett
8. Sgt. Norman Benson
9. Sgt. Eddie Guidry
10. Sgt. Charles Flukinger
11. Sgt. Francis J. Berard
12. Michael McPartland (was first officer on SS Gracefield)

# 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 supercedes 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) Joseph P. Gonet  
Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. 0-792252  
Unit 322nd Bomb. Group.

Signed Joseph P. Gonet  
Dated 7 Sept. 1944  
Witness Charles A. Brown  
W. H. A. C.

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED

44E# 1645

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

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Unit 322 Bomb Grp

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on 7 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate.

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*Edward P. Arnold*  
Major *Capt a.c.*

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