

*Gibbons*  
*C+E*  
*1269*

RESTRICTED  
HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U S Army,  
31 August 1944

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : 1ST LT WILLIAM L GIBBONS, 0803183, 457th Bomb Group  
1ST LT HENRY C WOODRUM, 0742102, 344th Bomb Group  
2ND LT WALTER J KOZICKI, 0693143, 361st Fighter Group  
2ND LT CLARENCE B RICH, 0706969, 392nd Bomb Group

You will proceed on or about 31 August 1944 from Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to the United States Special Reception Center, 63 Brook Street, London, W-1, England. TDM by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

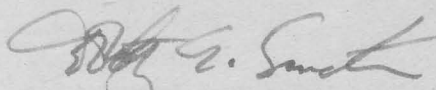
By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

V H STRAHM  
Brig Gen, USA,  
C of S.

OFFICIAL:

C R BIRBARI  
Lt Col, A.C.,  
Asst Adj Gen.

I certify this is a true copy:

  
DOROTHY A SMITH  
Captain, WAC

# 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) WILLIAM H. GIBBONS  
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. O-883183  
Unit 149 BOMB Sqd 457 BOMB GR.

Signed William S. Gibbons  
Dated 31 August 44  
Witness Det. C. Smith Capt WAC

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED

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

8-31-44  
(Date)

GIBBONS, W. L. 1st Lt O-803183  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Caribbean 20  
(Target) (Number of missions)

749 BOMB Sqr. 457 BOMB GR.  
(Unit)

Date Missing in Action: 8-14-44

Returned to UK: 8-31-44

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

PILOT	GIBBONS, W. L.	1st Lt	EVADER - R+D
CO-PILOT	SYPHAK	CAPT.	} <u>Unknown -</u> <u>list names as given</u> <u>disposition for all</u> <u>R+D to Base with plane.</u>
NAVIGATOR	BRANDT	1st Lt	
BOMBARDIER	HOVEY	" "	
	WALLS	" "	
RADIO OPERATOR	BILLINGTON	S/SGT	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	BIRCHEN	T/SGT	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	-UNKNOWN-		
WAIST GUNNER	HOLDER, P. A.	S/SGT	
WAIST GUNNER	SMITH, V. L.	S/SGT	
TAIL GUNNER	BECKETT, G. D.	2nd Lt	

09:30  
Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. Unconscious

6/14/44 CORRIEL FR. when I left the ship. All questions  
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
unknown.

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.

(over)

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?

Were you wounded?

*Slightly wounded. Scratches and  
burns on face and bruised shoulder*

Were you in German hands?

*no*

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

*no*

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

*yes*

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

What security briefing were you given?

*Fully Briefed*

What souvenirs do you still possess?

*9 German Bayonets*

Home address.

*331 N. Broadway Wichita, Kansas*

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.

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-989 Pentagon

6 August 1943

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Army Air Forces;  
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;  
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Name (Print) WILLIAM L. GIBBONS  
Rank 1st Lt AC A. S. N. 0-803183  
Unit 457 BOMB GR. 749 BOMB SQD

Signed William L. Gibbons  
Dated 31 August 44  
Witness W. G. Smith Capt W. D. C.

AG P BR HQ SOS

/224 72

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SECRET

E & E REPORT NO. IS9(WEA)7/88/56!

SECRET I.S.9(WEA)

FORMS USED: (GCS 404S, France, sheets 2a-8)

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

EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPE FROM (Name of Country) ..... France

1. O-803183 ~~1st Lt~~ ~~William D. Gibbons~~
2. Air Medal, 3 clusters.
3. Burns and scratches, sprained ankle
4. 1749 Hvy Bomber Sqn
5. 457 Bomber Gr, 8 AF
6. Pilot
7. 9 June 1920
9. Airplane construction
10. 115 North Old Manor Rd, Wichita, Kansas

11. Dogtags, photographs
12. No
- 13.
- 14.
15. Pilot
16. Pilot - Narrator

Co-Pilot - Capt Raymond Syptak

Navigator - 1st Lt William J. Brandt and 1st Lt Hovey

Bombardier - 1st Lt Patrick A. Walls

Radio Operator - S/Sgt Billington

Top Turret Gunner - T/Sgt Paul A. Birchen

Ball Turret Gunner - Not known

Waist Gunner (R) - S/Sgt Joseph L. Smith

Waist Gunner (L) - S/Sgt Paul Holder

Rail Gunner - 2nd Lt George J. Bennett

DISTRICT  
 FILE  
 12th Army Group  
 Capt A. W. D. ...  
 G-2 TUSA  
 G-2 TUSA  
 I (less "C")  
 S (less "C")

17. B-17, Glattor Airdrome, 14 June 44, 0600 hrs
18. Nondy, sheet 8 (S-1813)
19. Did not have time to hide
20. Does not know

Interviewed by I.S.9(WEA)  
 Date .....  
 I grade this report No. ....  
 1st Lt, AC  
 STONE CHRISTOPHER

Attached:  
 Appendix "B"  
 "C"  
 "D"

Disposal: Returned to unit through channels

SECRET

SECRET

MAPS USED: GCS 4042, France, sheets 3a-8

On June 14, I took off from Glatton Airdrome at 0600 hrs.

Our target was airfields south of Paris. We missed the target and made a second run. On this run 2 ME 109's came in at the nose and knocked out No. 3 engine and No. 4 oil lines. We had to salvo our bombs. We held formation and were hit by flak. I went down by the top turret to throw our flares out the bomb-bay. There was an explosion. I was knocked unconscious. I came to about 7000 ft, pulled my rip cord, and landed by Nandy (S-1813). Germans were running across a field. I ran into a forest and as I was running, a Frenchman came up, and we exchanged trousers. As we were running along, a little later another Frenchman came up with a jacket. I hid in a ditch for 4 hrs when 3 French children came up and took me to a cave in a nearby forest. While running to this cave the Germans came along. I hid myself in a ditch under a bush. On June 15, in the morning, 2 Frenchmen came for me in a truck and took me to a Chateau near Pringy, sheet 8, (S-1805). I stayed here one night. Then I went into a forest and stayed there for 7 days. From here my journey was arranged.

MM. Beaufile and HAULOT

DISTRIBUTION:

- HQ, IS9(WEA) ..... 2 ✓
- G-2, FUSA ..... 1 (less "C")
- G-2, TUSA ..... 1 ( " " )
- Capt ARNOLD, 9 AF ... 1
- 12th Army Group ..... 1
- File ..... 1

- 11. Postage, photographs
- 12. No
- 13. MM. Beaufile and HAULOT
- 14.
- 15. Pilot
- 16. Pilot - Navigator
- Co-Pilot - Capt Raymond Sptar
- Navigator - 1st Lt William J. Brandt and 1st Lt Hovey
- Bombardier - 1st Lt Patrick A. Wallis
- Radio Operator - 2nd Sgt Billington
- Top Turret Gunner - 2nd Sgt Paul A. Birchen
- Ball Turret Gunner - Not known
- Waist Gunner (R) - 2nd Sgt Joseph I. Smith
- Waist Gunner (L) - 2nd Sgt Paul Holder
- Ball Gunner - 2nd Lt George J. Bennett
- 17. B-17, Glatton Airdrome, 14 June 44, 0600 hrs
- 18. Nandy, sheet 8 (S-1813)
- 19. Did not have time to hide interviewed by I.S.9(WEA)
- 20. Does not know

Date ..... 30 Aug 44

I grade this report No. 4  
STONE CHRISTOPHER  
1st Lt, AC

- Attached:
- Appendix "B"
  - " " "C"
  - " " "D"

Disposal: Returned to unit through channels

SECRET

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.  
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/88/561

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 0-809183 Rank. 1st Lt Name William L. Gibbons

Date of Interview 30 Aug 44

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On June 22, the organization took me to Melun, sheet 8, (S-2506). I stayed here three days. Here is where I met Monsieur Regault. He took me to a house 15 miles south of Melun. I stayed here 3 weeks at Mme Soloungue DuPont's house. Then I came back to Melun where on July 13, I met Lt Woodrum. My story from here is the same as his. The name of the people I stayed with in Paris is Monsieur Andre Verdier, 129 Rue De Suresnes, Vonture, Paris.

TOP SECRET