

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 726
 EVASION IN

JUNE 8, 1944

(Date)

JOHN L. SWENSON MSGT. # 11129479

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

5 (No of Missions)

TARGET: Ludwigschan

Date Missing in Action: DEC. 30, 1943

351st 100th
 (Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 8, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIR)

Indicate what happened to
 each man
 and how you know

PILOT 2nd LT. FRANCIS P. SMITH
 CO-PILOT 2nd LT. JAMES LAW
 NAVIGATOR 2nd LT. S. HERKIWICH
 BOMBARDIER 2nd LT. CLYDE MANION
 RADIO OPERATOR MSGT. JOHN L. SWENSON
 TOP TURRET GUNNER TSGT. JOHN AMGRY
 BALL TURRET GUNNER SGT. ALVIN LITTLE
 WAIST GUNNER SGT. CONRAD STUMPHIG
 WAIST GUNNER SGT. JOHN RUNCLE
 TAIL GUNNER SGT. WILLIAM WERTZ
 ENLT. C. COMPTEN
 " MAC CHEENIX
 IN PARTY THAT CROSSED
 MOUNTAINS

SIX DAYS AFTER BEING SHOOT DOWN ALL OF
 CREW WERE TOGETHER EXCEPT FOR BOTH
 PILOTS AND T.T. GUNNER. THESE THREE
 HAD PARACHUTED BUT WERE HEARD FROM.
 ONE IN THE ORGANIZATION WE PROCEEDED
 ON OUR WAY OUT OF FRANCE. THE B.T.
 GUNNER WHO HAD BROKEN HIS ANKLE WAS
 LEFT IN PARIS. WE ALL MADE THE
 MOUNTAINS BUT IN CROSSING WE WERE STOPPED
 BY AVALANCHES AND HAD WORD THAT THE
 ENEMY WAS STRONG AROUND WHERE WE
 WERE TO CROSS INTO SPAIN. THE NAVIGATOR
 WAS LEFT IN A HOSPITAL IN A SMALL VILLAGE
 IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH AN INJURED LEG.
 HAD WORD LATER THAT HE WAS CAPTURED
 BY ENEMY. CAME BACK OUT OF MOUNTAINS.
 AFTER TWO WEEKS PARTY MADE WAY CROSS
 MOUNTAINS TO SPAIN - MINUS MYSELF
 (J.L. SWENSON) AND COMPANION EUGENE SYMONS,
 WE HAD FROZEN OR FROST BITTEN FEET AND
 ALSO WITHOUT SHOES. PARTY ARRIVED IN SPAIN O.K.

Were you wounded?

BECAUSE OF SHOES THAT WERE TOO SMALL I SUFFERED
 FROZEN OR FROST BITTEN FEET. - HAD MEDICAL CARE - LOST
 SIX TOE NAILS.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 726
EVASION IN France

ls
Proof
by
corrected 22 June 44

(Date)

John L SWENSON, S/Sgt, 11129879

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

418 Bomb Sq, 100 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

5 Missions

Number of missions

TARGET: LUDWIGSHAVEN

MIA: 30 December 1943

Arrived in UK:

8 June 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

| | | | | Official Disposition | Narrators Disposition |
|--------------------|----------|-------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| PILOT | 0-747348 | 2d Lt | Francis P SMITH, JR | | MIA <i>FW</i> |
| CO-PILOT | 0-751159 | 2d Lt | James P LAW | | MIA |
| NAVIGATOR | 0-809604 | 2d Lt | Saul (NMI) HERSHKOWITZ <i>HERSHKOWITZ</i> | | MIA |
| BOMBARDIER | 0-688710 | 2d Lt | Clyde S MANION | | E&E #577 |
| RADIO OPERATOR | 11129879 | S/Sgt | John L SWENSON | | NARRATOR |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | 32583144 | T/Sgt | John T AMERY | | E&E # 469 |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | 31198980 | Sgt | Alvin C LITTLE | | MIA |
| WAIST GUNNER | 36500968 | Sgt | Conrad P STUMPFIG, JR | | E&E #568 |
| WAIST GUNNER | 16087728 | Sgt | John W RUNCCEL | | E&E #567 |
| TAIL GUNNER | 17054110 | Sgt | William (NMI) WERTZ | | E&E #576 |

Were you wounded?

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.,.....)

AA position on highway - vicinity Rhein - also listening post.

Told lot of wood tanks at Vignacis - this is Jan.

Off end of Tanks on road to Lumb - c 1/2 mile out.

FW's the. Told a ty school.

Also saw Me 210's

Told 3000 B in Charleville.

At Tanks saw 5000 troops

20 June, 1944

John L Swenson

S/Sgt

11129879

351 Bomb Sq, 1000 Bomb Gp (H)

Eighth Air Force

Bronze Star

726

For courage and determination in evading from France under most difficult conditions. Made one unsuccessful Pyrenees crossing before the second and successful one. In this first crossing he helped Sgt Stumpf (E&E 568), practically carrying him for more than eight hours. Lt COMPTON (E&E 566) reported this effort as one of the most amazing feats of human endurance he had ever seen and as one of the most commendable individual sacrifices which he had witnessed. Because of his efforts, Sgt Swenson froze his feet so badly that he was unable to continue the journey and had to be left behind in France.

W S HOLF, Lt Col, AG
Commanding

3 May 1944

Memorandum: Addendum to Appendix C, E&E 566 (Lt Compton)

To: Lt Col W Stull Holt, CO, PW and X Det, MIS

1. At the request of S/Sgt Cherniss I questioned Lt Compton to find out whether there was anything of moment in his Pyrenees crossing which he had failed to mention in original interrogation. He gave the information indicated below.

2. In the first attempt of his party to cross the mountains Sgt STUMPFIG (E&E 568) had trouble with a cord (sic) in his thigh which so incapacitated him that he could not walk. Sgt John SWENSON more or less carried STUMPFIG for eight hours until the party reached a place of refuge. In so carrying him SWENSON froze both feet, so badly that he may be handicapped for the rest of his life. Lt COMPTON thought this amazing feat of endurance one of the most commendable individual sacrifices he had ever seen. He strongly urges that Sgt SWENSON be given some fitting military recognition for his action.

After this exploit Sgt SWENSON was in such bad shape that he had to be left behind in France when the party made their second and successful effort to cross the mountains. He has subsequently arrived in Spain.

On the second crossing Sgt STUMPFIG again had the same difficulty. Through the efforts of Capt WINK (E&E 562) and Lt MCHESNEY (E&E 565) he was brought into Spain with the group. Lt COMPTON, who at that point was leading the party, something having happened to the guides, wanted to abandon STUMPFIG, fearing that the whole party would be caught by the Germans if they did not reach one point before daylight. Capt WINK refused to abandon the man and did all that he could to talk him into sticking it out. Lt COMPTON clearly feels that STUMPFIG did not have sufficient determination in carrying on, but he is willing to admit that it may have been a matter of no strength as well as no determination. Lt MCHESNEY assisted STUMPFIG, letting him hang on him. Lt COMPTON feels that this action of Lt MCHESNEY is due special commendation but not of such a high order as that of Sgt SWENSON.

Lt COMPTON failed to mention these additional details in original interrogation through oversight.

Papers in.

DE
D E PERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Recommend ?

*File
new form
204
Recommend*

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

JOHN L. SWENSON /SGT. /1129679
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

JUNE 8, 1944
(Date)

100th B. GRP. 351st B. SQ.
(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
DEC. 30, 1944 - 1350 - VICINITY SMALL VILLAGE "VOUR LES MORON"

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.
Was it on fire, etc? HIT BY CANNON FIRE (20MM) IN BOMB BAY.
BOMB BAY BURST IN FLAME - BELIEVE OXYGEN HIT.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?
20,000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
B. T. GUNNER BROKE ANKLE ON LANDING IN CHUTE.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
ALL BAILED OUT - CHUTES OPENED.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?
BELIEVED PLANE EXPLODED - WAS TOLD ONLY TAIL WAS LEFT.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
SAW ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT BOTH PILOTS AND T. T. GUNNER.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.
NO INFORMATION ON MISSING THREE

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?
NO.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and 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?
I WAS TOLD THAT ONE MAN WAS CAPTURED ON LANDING IN THE VICINITY OF WHERE WE WERE HIT. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE ONE OF THE THREE BECAUSE WE ALL PARACHUTE IN SAME AREA - CAME TOGETHER - BUT NOTHING WAS EVER HEARD ABOUT THE THREE.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

DATE: 9 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, ROBERT H. WILLIAMS, JR., 1st Lt., AC, O-615034

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

JOHN L. SWENSON, S/Sgt., AC, 11129879

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

John L. Swenson *Robert H. Williams, Jr.*
1st Lt. AC

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



=====
The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as JOHN L. SWENSON, S/Sgt., AC, 11129879 (351 Bomb Squadron - 100 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

J. F. Carroll
J. F. CARROLL, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.
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