

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 726
EVASION IN

JUNE 8, 1944
(Date)

JOHN L. SWENSON S/SGT. # 11129879

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

5 (No of Missions)

351ST

(Squadron)

100TH

(Group)

TARGET: Ludwigsheim

Date Missing in Action: DEC. 30, 1943

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 8, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

2nd PILOT LT. FRANCIS P. SMITH

2nd CO-PILOT LT. JAMES LAW

☒ NAVIGATOR 2nd LT. S. HERKIWICH

☒ BOMBARDIER 2nd LT. CLYDE MANION

☒ RADIO OPERATOR S/SGT. JOHN L. SWENSON

☒ TOP TURRET GUNNER T/SGT. JOHN AMERY

☒ REAR TURRET GUNNER SGT. ALVIN LITTLE

☒ WAIST GUNNER SGT. CONRAD STUMPHIG

☒ WAIST GUNNER SGT. JOHN RUNCEL

☒ TAIL GUNNER SGT. WILLIAM WERTZ

1st SGT. C. COMPTON
" MAC CHERNIK
IN PARTY THAT CROSSED
MOUNTAINS

Were you wounded?

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 TWO 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.

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

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 Stumpfig (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 HOLT, Lt Col, AC
Commanding

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. 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.
4. 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:
 - (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. 4a.e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFICATE

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 American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name(Print) SWENSON JOHN L. Signed John L. Swenson
Rank S/SGT. A.S.N. 11129879 Date June 5, 1944
Unit 100TH BOMB GRP. 351ST B. Sq. Witness Horace W. Forster
HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
U. S. Mil. Lia. Off.

Place entière	Demi place	Tarif militaire	Adultes	Enfants	Réformés de guerre	A percevoir
Prix par voyageur						
Nombre des voyageurs	111					
Prix par catégorie						
Taux de réduction %			Nombre total de voyageurs			
N° des cartes d'identité ou titres de réduction			Impôt d'exemption			
			Timbre-quittance			
			TOTAL			
			Total arrondi à . . .			

S.N.C.F. N° 54763

de

Paris-Austerlitz 5^e

à

1^{er}

2^e

3^e

via

Distance

Date d'émission

559 -

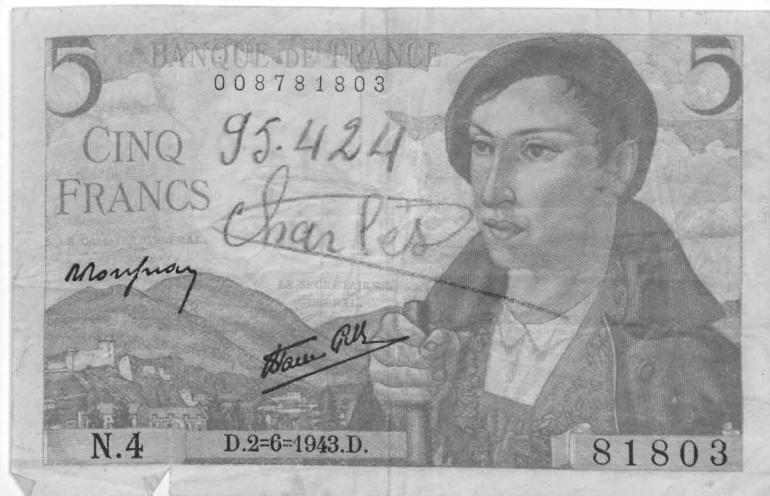
559 -

Paris

200 km

24

02-08-44



BANQUE DE FRANCE

008781803

CINQ
FRANCS

95.424

Charles

Monday

LE SEGRETAIRE
GENERAL

Have OK

N.4

D.2=6=1943.D.

81803

ml

- 027

08-05-80
Boul
maison

- 027



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 McCHESNEY (E&E 565) he was brought in to 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 McCHESNEY assisted STUMPFIG, letting him hang on him. Lt COMPTON feels that this action of Lt McCHESNEY 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 EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Recommend ?

*new file
long recommend*

3 May 1944

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D E EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

JOAN L. SWENSON SGT. #1129879
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

JUNE 8, 1944
(Date)

100TH B. G.R.P. 351ST B. S.D.
(Unit)

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

DEC. 30, 1944 - 1350 - VICINITY SMALL VILLAGE "VOUX 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.

Swamp C 1345 return from T- out ch - (bit by 20-mm indians) - some
plan go to

C 20,000' hit with
sand in clearing in trees
with 24' alt

Vaux les Mourens
Chaloranges (?)

Expected all to say - no have immediately, some playground - ask
where - that is - not in. Nix Becks

Some 1. Harkinty - call me - that 2 above.

Remind me go - 2 F. after him

Walk c mile to slash on side hill - couple hours later big food.

But girl with little G - my ^{2 days later} ~~some more~~ some in cone.

2100 am with Stungfish.

31 but man with little G -

1 Jan - 2100 to town - house of M. Clair Thuring - just, sheltered

2 Jan 2 gardeners come see us - my house soon

3 Jan - clothes - walk to meet car - can not one - print on bike -
no car - back - fix go.

To husband & wife at your house.

Thuring always with Pierre.

At - walk some time - hit - 3 men on bikes - we ride c 5 miles to little
town - to home barbed wire dealer (on 1 guide)

Then met Winty & print.

Remind & Harkinty about. 2nd, with Winty.

Then to print's house next day.

Next at but in Marion.

5 Jan small truck - c 1700 - Conpton & Mc Cherry in it - also
little. Pick up Stungfish, Remind, & H. Out town before being

all but Warty, Marion, & I.

Sty Georges logeant - M's wife & 4 children there
Here until 24 Jan. Park Croyton, Rueil, 44th rue 'Little Georges' & it -
there to 24.

Saw Mayor / Tom.

P 2 who went down today - then not yet in it
Little's by looks - bad shape - seen not set

Charley with glasses seen in day for SN 95, 424 (on summit)

Sat 19 they left - took us to Paris few hours away (a couple for
bed jumped off train on way to Paris)

2) To Maria - few hours away - stay with Rosemary - Georges.
both

To Charlie the butcher.

Warty, Marion, & I

Back Rosemary's home 24 Jan - c 1500 Rosemary, 2 girls,

With them M.C., Stungis, Her -

Blanche, D. L., Bonnie, Jean

I with Little, Warty

Big Georges to train.

Pierre in train -
at Marie's bed.
Claude & other

Paris c 2830 - Little on Couch.

To cafe.

Train to Enghien - house I had been hidden down - girl very nice.

Rue des Lescages

Warty, Stungis, Little, I out

22 Jan - 3 Feb

Pierre came - Little had stay because of it.

To 2d floor get.

Some other Fr who had to leave country to take us to Tarbes

Received 9/12

4 Feb 1200 Toulouse - 1915 to train before Tarbes.

2 girls work for Ren & Pierre met - Claude m - on to Tarbes.

2m Tarbes followed Fr - they to get in touch with Casanova -

Wearing around - finally with him.

To Mme Lily Labart, 24 Rue des Cultivateurs.

San Julian - there

9-12 Feb there.

Met M Auguste Lamour^{s?} - but it off.

11 to leave - rain & couldn't.

Manuel Daniel can see.

12 to board house - 16 Cans - tell police my print - to

Lamour's house. Had & another pair shoes - to tight.

16. Jean Venot Certified 30 1970 SN A 2170 - worked
for police - doing official stamps. Went to there.

25 with him.

25 to Café - Agent for black market & recreation - met
by espionage agent.

c 5'7-8" - Lt hair - dirty blond, narrow face - typical G.

Ask my man for him - to say no:

Canadian James Fox with us.

c 1670 truck - then met Symons.

Stamps, Rent, Mol, Fog.

Casanova & another woman.

To Bayonne at Son / Hotel

There until 1 March. Then leave for into in truck of M Marty

11 Nov.

Inside Ciel - Capt Sp Army

Stop v by St Marie - where Marty own saw well.

Walk 2-8 hrs to into.

Inside but very white

To mini-

Have on full me had - Symons shoes too small - all had

Lejeune's hit - could remember the blue.
C 1500 Stungifig & pull in to have to wait.
Took benzadine - no good.

Herchinty good back track.

Start take off shoes - two fingers to leg - Symons also.

Trys toes turn black - swell up

3 March.

Couldn't do anything with feet - had
cut toes off - put water by skin to
keep out snow.

Helped Stungifig - I about done in.

Swich to take other the ice after is.

Symons - ^{sudden} - but been ten back - Party was 3 days before - been trapped
in avalanche - quite killed - Symons rescued others
to investigate

Call others with S. Arch's home go back.

4 March To hotel - on - looks with logging hut - left 1 herd then

They can back to where Swenson was -

Back to mine - Guid & Fy go back

Back to valley - to Marty's at S+Marie - SAT 13 March.

Then to sheep shed in hills - obliged to Albert - then 13-16.

C 8-9 Cassanova came - & gave hit 1st off wheel.

We come - say just be ok.

Man from San hotel sent medical supplies

16 boys pulled out - we couldn't make it - stayed
People run & run

18 Albert came - said for more.

To valley. 1/2 went in to see Lucien & Marty's run -

Marty gone to Paris on horses

We not been eating since 16

Lucien & Marty's ^{run} come - bring little food.

- 20 - not in as promised - always leave next day - nothing to eat.
- 21 - we say go to Marty's house - house down - in - cleaned up -
place - made self comfortable.
People that are Mayan.
- 22 Albert back - ask what we are - we tell him - promise food.
Immense men in - promise big food.
23. Took to St. Marie - an hotel - Marty's son & his
on it with car
Taken to London Cafe in Bagueri.
- Then with people of cafe - at their house - 24-31
Casanova came on to see us.
- Moved to another house 30.
- 31 Some Casanova's men take us to Tarbes - stay with Manuel
Cerrado - 31 - 5 April. By next day Spanish
heat is well.
- 5 Calvo - work for Casanova - took us to house Paul Duplant
to 14 April. Mother, 2 girls, girl friend.
- Casanova came on 12 April
Told us that René & Pierre picked up by Gestapo.
He got to Paris - after work he sent by to Barcelona -
in meantime we to report at B.
- 13 got shoes.
Lammone came - just led that back in Tarbes.
(Herch - left in nets as far as know)
Got chocolate, sugar, whiskey
- 14 pm pull out - took to Lourdes - covered with lumber -
rode distance - pick up girls & Jean Tarnal

took far as could into mts - 2 guides - in
15 April + fort - start of mts - in rain - stop hunt for
16 Bull mt am This drift into Spar

Prised by Spaniards.

Part of Bushes.

8 Apr Bilvestro jail

21 Apr Hotel

25 May Alhambra

7 June Madrid

5th

Fr told in Bilvestro that

Duch in prison/house at

Tarbes - 2 gds - but quite far.

Another Fr few weeks later

Late April 5 Dms got it in mts
in early May.

Fr told that Duch

Quarantined in Madrid by Brits day after told
Art Clark.

Perrotte Charles

3 rue de l'Ecole de Mars

Neuil of S/S

Los Angeles Mor Buckler

7771 Gainsburg & Ave.

Gib - seen in R&F

At Bristol asked when shot down. asked where - what
country -

He shot down - in sea - in bay I was - t. hosp, torn fusin,
but died.
Someone else took lake & drowned - we got many fish
p. 10

Another - Fr - my fellow fell over & down.

George told I Pellow found in house & picked up - not he
p.

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 Rheims - also testing post.

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

A/B and 7 Tanks in road to Lombs - c 1/2 mile out.

Fw's the. Told a by school.

Also saw Me 210's

Told 3000 S in Charleville.

At Tanks near Soire troops

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:--

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? *NO*
- b. If not, why? *LOST IT WHEN I PARACHUTED*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights"

BUT USED MY CAWS
SAVE AIDS BOX FOR WHEN CROSSING MOUNTAINS PHY.
GOOD
Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *GOOD*

Milk (tube). *NONE*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *NOT MUCH HELP TO ME.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *NOT NECESSARY*

Matches. *FOR FIRES - COULD HAD USE FOR MORE.*

Adhesive tape. *GAVE IT AWAY*

Chewing gum. *GAVE IT AWAY - NOT NECESSARY*

Water bottle. *HAD TO CUT TOES FROM SHOES IN THE MOUNTAINS USED IT TO COVER TOES KEPT FEET DRY.*

Compass. *NO*

Sewing kit. *YES, FOR STOCKING*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *YES - BENZADRINE TABLETS.*

- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *DID NOT DISPOSE OF BOX*

- 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?

BUT SOME FLAVORING IN HORLICKS TABLETS AND PEANUT BAR A FEW CIGARETTES IF POSSIBLE

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *YES*
State color of stripes and letters. *RED*
If NOT, State why not. *HAD A PURSE BUT LOST IT WHEN I BAILED OUT*
- b. Did you use the purse?

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

NO COMPASSES BUT CLOTHES AND IDENTITY CARDS

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

YES PHOTOS

If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

YES

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

YES

b. State where, when and by whom.

100TH B. GARR - DEC. 1943

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 escapees?

YES. — WHEN FLYING ALWAYS CARRY A PAIR OF O.I. SHOES WITH YOU. THE MOUNTAINS ARE PRETTY DAM TOUGH TO CROSS (ESPECIALLY IN THE WINTER) AND IF YOU HAVE AN EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE FOOT IT WILL BE HARD FINDING A PAIR OF SHOES TO FIT YOU.

Comment:

*who preceded Sgt
Svenson to the UK.*

Sgt SWENSON's understatement covers a multitude of facts. Both of his Pyrenees crossings were of the most difficult order, made under miserable weather conditions through high passes clogged with snow. On the first crossing the whole party had to turn back although they were almost ~~14/18/18/18/18/~~ in Spain. Previous members of this party to return reported that Sgt SWENSON "more or less carried" a member of his crew for some eight hours before the party reached a place of refuge. The officer describing the crossing thought this action ~~of~~ ~~of~~ ~~of~~ an amazing feat of ~~of~~ endurance and one of the most commendable individual sacrifices that he had ever seen. Sgt SWENSON's feet were so badly frozen that he had to be left behind when this party made their second and successful crossing into Spain, a crossing much like the first unsuccessful one (Cf E&E 562). Sgt SWENSON's ^{own} second crossing differed from the first in little but its success.

The ~~improper~~ and inadequate shoes which Sgt SWENSON was wearing were given to him by his helpers. Needless to say he would have given anything to have his GI shoes with him.

Comment on 926:

This reader's painful experience in getting his feet frozen and having to take the same risk again was entirely due to improper Footgear. Any mountain climber will testify that the U S infantry boot (GI shoes) is the best mountain boot ever developed. There is no shortage of them.

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

corrected 22 June 44 & sum

(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 PWID)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt	Francis P SMITH, JR		MIA <i>FA</i>
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt	James P LAW		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt	Saul (NMI) HERSHWOTIZ <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 RUNCLE		E&E #567
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt	William (NMI) WERTZ		E&E #576

Were you wounded?

SEE E&E 567-568, I bailed out at about 20,000 feet, with a 24 foot parachute, which is too small for a man my size. I landed in a clearing in a woods, and, since I expected the whole ^{Germans} army after me, I started out immediately. I thought that I was in France but I was not sure. I asked ~~A~~ ploughman where I was, and he assured me that there were no Boches around. I soon ^{picked up} ~~ran into~~ a crew member, and we ran into Sgt RUNCCEL (E&E 367) a few minutes later. ~~We walked to a~~ A couple of Frenchmen were with him, and we all went to a shack ~~where~~ on the side of a hill. We were fed there, and Sgt (E&E 568) STUMPFIG joined us.

From this place our journey was arranged. I traveled with other members of my crew, but it took me two Pyrenees crossings finally to get into Spain. I had shoes which were too small for me the first time, and when my feet were frozen, I was unable to complete the journey.

Compiled by

D E EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Approved by

W STULL HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

Appendix B

1. The following information has been obtained from a sergeant who evaded capture in enemy occupied territory.
2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any details about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 30 December 1943 to 16 April 1944

- a. Informant was told that the Germans have around RHEIMS AA positions and listening posts run by women.
- b. Informant was told in January that the Germans had many dummy tanks of wood around VOULZIERS.
- c. About half a mile out of TARBES on the way to LOURDES informant saw an airfield from which FW 190's ~~were flying~~ and Me 210's were flying. He was told that a training school was located there.
- d. Informant was told in January that 3000 Germans were in CHARLEVILLE.
- e. Informant was told that some 5000 troops were at TARBES in APRIL.

Appendix D

1. I lost my aids box when I parachuted, but other members of my crew shared theirs with me. The ~~Benzadrine~~ ^{had no effect on me} tablets were no good as far as I was concerned. I think that it would be well to put some flavoring in the horlicks tablets and the nut bar, and also to add a few cigarettes, if possible.
2. I carried a Red purse but lost it when I bailed out.
3. I carried five passport-size photographs which I used on identity papers.
4. I had been lectured at group on evasion and escape. The lectures were valuable.

Suggestions: When flying always carry a pair of GI shoes with you. They are damn tough to cross, especially in winter, and if you have lost it will be hard to find a pair of shoes to fit you.

SEE E&E 469, 576, 577-578
 I bailed out at about 20,000 feet, with a 24 foot parachute, which is too small for a man my size. I landed in a clearing in a woods, and, since I expected the whole ^{German} army after me, I started out immediately. I thought that I was in France but I was not sure. I asked ^A ploughman where I was, and he assured me that there were no Boches around. I soon ^{picked up} ~~ran into~~ a crew member, and we ran into Sgt RUNCCEL (E&E 567) a few minutes later. ~~We walked to a~~ A couple of Frenchmen were with him, and we all went to a shack ~~where~~ on the side of a hill. We were fed there, and Sgt (E&E 568) STUMPFIG joined us.

~~HAD TWO DIFFICULT PYRENEES CROSSINGS~~
 From this place our journey was arranged. I traveled with other members of my crew, but it took me two Pyrenees crossings finally to get into Spain. I had shoes which were too small for me the first time, and when my feet were frozen, I was unable to complete the journey.

Compiled by

D E EMERSON
 1st Lt, AUS

Approved by

W STULL HOLT
 Lt Col, AC
 Commanding

Appendix B

1. The following information has been obtained from a sergeant who evaded capture in enemy occupied territory.
2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any details about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 30 December 1943 to 16 April 1944

- a. Informant was told that the Germans have around RHEIMS AA positions and listening posts run by women.
- b. Informant was told in January that the Germans had many dummy tanks of wood around VOUIERS.
- c. About half a mile out of TARBES on the way to LOURDES informant saw an air field from which FW 190's ~~were flying~~ and Me 210's were flying. He was told that a training school was located there.
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RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 883.6 (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 883.6 (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) JOAN L. SWENSON
Rank S/SGT. A. S. N. # 11129879
Unit 100TH BOMB GRP. 351ST B. SQ.

Signed Joan L. Swenson
Dated June 8, 1944
Witness Emerson 15757 NWS

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

RESTRICTED

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. JOHN LENNA SWENSON 5/SGT. #11129879
2. Decorations. (EXPECT) AIR MEDAL
3. Unit or Squadron. 100TH B. GRP. 351 B.SQ.
4. Division (Army) or Group. 3RD DIVISION
5. Date of Birth. NOV. 29, 1922
6. Length of Service. 18 MONTHS
7. Private Address. 31 SPRING ST. SOMERVILLE MASS.
8. Job as civilian. MEAT CLERK AND MEAT CUTTER
9. From what field did you take off? 100TH B. GRP. THORPE ABBOTTS
10. Take off time. (APP) 0830
11. Date and target. DEC. 30, 1943 — LUDWIGSHAVEN
12. Where did you land? NORTHERN FRANCE — VICINITY OF VILLAGE OF "VOUX LES MORON"
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES
14. What was your position in aircraft? RADIO OPERATOR
15. Were you wounded? NO
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? NO
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? NO
18. Did you have Identity Papers? NO DOB TAGS - LOST IN W 11/P
19. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when?
GIBRALTAR — BRITISH INTERROGATING OFFICER
WRITTEN REPORT — NO.
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
NO
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
YES — ALABAMA SPAIN — MADRID GIBRALTAR
22. Date of arrival in Spain. 16 April
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. JUNE 6, 1944
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
GIBRALTAR — JUN 7, 1944 — AIR
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
BRISTOL — JUNE 8, 1944

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

1. Complete description of everything that happened.
in plane before jump.
2. Description of jump and landing.
3. Description of what you did with your equipment.
4. Tell story of experiences up to time you met the person who put you in contact with organization.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU
AT ANY TIME.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

5. How you crossed Pyrenees (General Location)
6. Your experiences in Spain.

Suggestions for others.

If there is some helpful incident that happened after you were picked up, do not mention it until it has been discussed with M.I.S. Interrogator.

Richard R Nelson

RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC

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.

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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