

S E C R E T

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

JOHN D. McSWEENEY 2ND LT 0-811706
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
576TH SQDN 392ND BOMB GP
(Unit)

SEPT. 3 1944
(Date)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT
CO-PILOT
NAVIGATOR
BOMBARDIER
RADIO OPERATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER
BALL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. JUNE 23, 1944 - 2000 Hrs
5 MILES SOUTHEAST OF LAON, FRANCE.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? /
CONTROLS APPARENTLY SHOT AWAY AS WE SLID OUT OF FORMATION
ON BOMB RUN WITH LEFT WING LOW. NO FIRE. NO 1. ENG. OUT
AND NO. 4 RUNNING AWAY.
At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 10000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? DON'T KNOW FOR
CERTAIN. BUT BELIEVE TAIL GUNNER WAS KILLED AS FRENCH
SAID SOMEONE WAS IN THE WRECKAGE.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? ALL BUT TAIL
GUNNER. ALL OPENED EXCEPT ONE. CO-PILOT SAW A MAN HIT IN A
FIELD AS HE WAS COMING DOWN BELIEVED IT WAS PILOT
Did the plane explode on striking the ground? YES. ENGINEER WITNESSED
THE CRASH FROM THE AIR.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
CO-PILOT AND ENGINEER (TOP TURRET GUNNER)

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. CO-PILOT SAW CHUTE
RISE UP JUST BEFORE HE REACHED GROUND. FRENCH SAID GERMANS
CAPTURED ONE. FRENCH ALSO CONTACTED ANOTHER BUT HE RAN
AWAY AFTER THEY HID HIM AND WENT TO GET FOOD & CLOTHING
Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? NO 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. N

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for
his opinion? PILOT-DEAD AFTER TALKING WITH PILOT-PILOT
NTG- DEAD- FRENCH HAD HIM, BUT HE DIED FROM WOUNDS
OR REASONS UNKNOWN.
TTC- DEAD. FRENCH SAID SOMEONE WAS IN WRECKAGE
AND WE APPARENTLY RECEIVED A DIRECT
HIT IN TAIL SURFACES. (COVER)

RADIO OPERATOR - DON'T KNOW

WAIST GUNNER - DON'T KNOW

WAIST GUNNER - DON'T KNOW

CO-PILOT - WAS WITH ME IN FRANCE AND RETURNED TO ENGLAND
WITH ME.

TOP TURRET GUNNER - WAS WITH ME IN FRANCE BUT DUE TO INJURIES
COULDN'T ACCOMPANY ME THROUGH THE LINES.
WE LEFT HIM WITH SOME FRENCH PEOPLE WITH
THE AMERICANS 10 KILOMETERS AWAY.

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? *A FRENCHMAN WAS WAITING FOR ME TO HIT THE GROUND.*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *HID IT.*
- 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? *NO*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse?
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not.

- b. Did you use the purse? *YES*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones? *NORTHERN FRANCE*

Compass, *NO*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *FRANCE - 300 FR*
How did you spend the money? *T. BACCO*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *GAVE IT TO THE FRENCH TO HIDE*

Compass. *GAVE IT TO THE FRENCH*

File (hacksaw). *IT BROKE AND I THREW IT AWAY*

Surplus currency. *1700 FR*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *NO*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *YES*

If so, how many? *SIX*

b. Did you use them? *YES*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES JAN. 44*

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *HAMILTON FIELD CAL BY AN S-2 OFFICER AND IN ENGLAND ALSO*

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *YES FEB. 44*

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers? *NO*

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.,.....)

THE AVERAGE GERMAN SOLDIER SEEMED TO KNOW THAT THE END WAS IN SIGHT AND TRIED TO GET BACK IN GOOD GRACE WITH THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

TA I CAN'T EVER EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR THE FRENCH PEOPLE ENOUGH. NOT JUST FOR WHAT THEY DID FOR ME OR ANY OTHER AIRMEN BUT FOR KEEPING THEIR HEADS HIGH FOR FOUR YEARS AND REFUSING TO GIVE UP.

S E C R E T

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

JOHN D. McSWEENEY 2ND LT. 0-811706
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: JUNE 23-44

Date arrived in UK: SEPT. 3 1944

25 (No. of missions)

578TH (Squadron) 392ND (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

- 1144 PILOT - C.G. Mc CARTHY - BELIEVED DEAD. CO-PILOT SAW SOMEONE HIT IN FIELD. ALMOST CERTAIN IT WAS PILOT.
- 1396 CO-PILOT T.M. GERBING - BAILED OUT SAFELY AND WAS WITH ME IN FRANCE
- X NAVIGATOR J.D. McSWEENEY
- BOMBARDIER HARDY - (NOSE TURRET) - DEAD - DIED ON GROUND FROM UNKNOWN SOURCE - BURIED AT OR NEAR LAON. FRENCH PEOPLE GAVE ME INFORMATION ABOUT HIM.
- RADIO OPERATOR - KNIGHT - DON'T KNOW.
- TOP TURRET GUNNER - B. HOUSER - BAILED OUT SAFELY. HOWEVER RECEIVED WRENCHED SHOULDER AND BROKEN FINGER SOMEHOW.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER - NONE. FRANCE AS INJURIES DIDN'T PERMIT HIM TO ACCOMPANY US THROUGH THE LINES. STILL IN FR
- WAIST GUNNER J. MORRIS - DON'T KNOW
- WAIST GUNNER ESCHINGE - DON'T KNOW
- TAIL GUNNER ECKERT - BELIEVED DEAD. FRENCH PEOPLE SAID ONE MAN WAS STILL IN AIRCRAFT AFTER IT CRASHED

Decorations: AIR MEDAL WITH ONE OLC

Date of Birth: JULY-25-1920.

Private Address: 1215 CLOVER LANE CHESTER PA.

Length of Service: 2 YRS. 1 MONTH, 4 DAYS

Job as Civilian: MACHINIST APPRENTICE

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

WENDLING 1630

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details. UPON HITTING THE GROUND DISCOVERED SEVERE GASH ON LEFT HAND. CONCLUDED IT RESULTED FROM FLAK OR IN EXITING FROM AIRCRAFT.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? NO

Do you speak FRENCH? YES SPANISH? NO GERMAN? NO ITALIAN? NO OTHER LANGUAGE? None

Did you have identity papers? YES 1269 TAGS AGO CARD/WALLET

211P

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? *No* If so, where and by whom?

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. *No* Where and When?

Did you report on your operations? *No* If so, where and to whom?

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? *No* If so, Where and When?

Date of arrival in Spain: *NINE*

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: *NONE*

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

PARIS BY AIR

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-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) JOHN D. McSWEENEY
Rank 2nd Lt A. S. N. 0-811706
Unit 578th SQDN 392nd GP

Signed John D. McSweeney
Dated Sept. 3 1944
Witness F. J. Emerson Capt US

AG P BR HQ SOS

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