

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 (WIA) PERSONNEL

SEPT-10-44
(Date)

DONALD H SWANSON - S/SGT, 37552256
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

MUNICH - 16
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: July-12-44

Returned to UK: SEPT-9-44

458 BOMB GROUP 755 SQDN.
(Unit)

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

PILOT 1/1t. QUIRK - GERMAN PRISONER

CO-PILOT 2/1t. CAMPBELL - " "

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR T/SGT. MILLER - GERMAN PRISONER

TOP TURRET GUNNER T/SGT. McQUEEN - " "

BALL TURRET GUNNER S/SGT. SWANSON

WAIST GUNNER S/SGT. HILLIS

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER S/SGT. PIERCE - GERMAN PRISONER

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. July 12-44 - 1400 hr, near Mons

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? no damage runs out of gas

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 14000 ft

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? no

What numbers of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? 9 jump 9 opened

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? yes

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. yes received information from wight army that all the crew were safe except one MILLER he took his ankle and other germans got her and 3 days later (over) received a not from a civilian from 2nd Campbell telling me who was safe and so forth.

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

no

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?

pilot, Co. pilot, Eng., tail gunner are in german prison camp I seen them about 2 days befor they left for germany they were in St Gilles prison in Bouffelles Belgium with me.

Were you wounded?

no

Were you in German hands?

yes

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

no

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

I dont see any names

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

What security briefing were you given?

What souvenirs do you still possess?

none

Home address.

2015 Humboldt So Minneapolis Minnesota U.S.A.

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

1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) DONALD H SWANSON Signed Donald H Swanson
 Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 37552256 Dated SRPT/10/14 Place London
 Unit 458 BOMB GROUP 955 Sqdn Witness

I was free for 4 weeks with French people but was captured 12 Aug 1944 and taken to Gestapo headquarters and searched. I was then taken to St. Giles prison, was interrogated and stayed here for three weeks. I was put in a dark cell for eight hours for looking out of the window and had to stand at attention when non-coms came around or I was pushed around. I saw my pilot 1st Lt. Quirk, our engineer T/Sgt. McQueen, and our tail gunner Pierce. I spoke to the pilot and engineer and the engineer said that he was beat up at the interrogation. They were then taken to Germany about 24 August 1944. I lived in a cell with one German soldier and two Belgian people until 2 Sep 1944 when they evacuated the prison taking out all civilians and soldiers.

No C report attached plus

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Ex # 1861

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

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 37552256 Rank S/Sgt
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Donald H. Swanson
Unit 458 B Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA) on 9 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate. He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

Robert Bacon
Major 2/Lt, Ac

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.