

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

9-6-44  
(Date)

SWIDER A. S. T/SGT. 33087688  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFURT 10  
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: FEB. 4-44

Returned to UK: 9-6-44

385 B. GP. 594754D  
(Unit)

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

PILOT B.N. HORSTMAN NO NEWS

CO-PILOT W. KUSSOFF NO NEWS

+ NAVIGATOR H. W. KISINGER STARTED OUT WITH ME

+ BOMBARDIER - J. P. HANSON " " "

RADIO OPERATOR - SEELY PROBABLY KILLED

TOP TURRET GUNNER MYSELF

BALL TURRET GUNNER V.O. ROSKEY IN SWITZERLAND

WAIIST GUNNER - J. V. GILLIAM PRISONER IN GERMANY

WAIIST GUNNER - DONT REMEMBER THE NAMES

TAIL GUNNER -

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. NEAR BELGIUM 1:30 PM.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? FEB. 4-1944

3 ENGINES OUT & BOTH WINGS ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

25,000 TO 26,000

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

1 MAN KILLED WHEN PLANE BLEW UP

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

ALL BUT RADIO MAN

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

EXPLODED IN MID AIR  
Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

YES, ROSKEY, KISINGER, HANSON

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.

RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM BELGIAN UNDERGROUND

(over) THAT 3 WERE TAKEN PRISONERS BUT NO NAMES

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

*I SAW A PIECE OF THE PLANE COME DOWN 100 FT. FROM WHERE I WAS*  
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?

*WHILE IN SWITZERLAND I WROTE TO THE INT. RED CROSS AND RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT IMAN. JAMES GILLIAM. I KNOW*

Were you wounded?

*Switz 3 June  
Lv ... 25 Aug  
Am hands - 28 ..*

Were you in German hands?

*NO*  
Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

*NO*  
Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

*NO*  
List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

*NEVER REMEMBERED ANY NAMES AS IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS*

What security briefing were you given?

*THE USUAL*

What souvenirs do you still possess?

*LITTLE RELIGIOUS MEDALS GIVEN ME BY PEOPLE WHO HELPED ME*  
Home address.

*181 LEVERING ST. PHILA. 27. PENNA.*

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.

*2ND LT. JOHN A. CHALOT NEW YORK STATE P 51 PILOT  
2ND LT. VERNON KISINGER TEXAS MY GOMBADIER  
S/Sgt. JOHN R. HANSON BROOKLYN N.Y. NAVIGATOR  
MY TOSALIER  
ON LAST MISSION*

# 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.

### 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 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) SWIDER A.S.  
Rank T/SGT. A. S. N. 33087688  
Unit 385 B. GROUP 594? SAI

Signed Alex. S. Swider  
Dated 9/6/44  
Witness L. J. Mumm Cpt + M S

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

# RESTRICTED



5-2-0 Told G.P. that head for safety and get out he will treat me

Swidm - Between Wytengen - Hees - w Moostich &  
His first offer of food - ① - and 25-26,000 - but first  
loading - couldn't move 1/2 - 3/4 hr.  
Ch later story. Flemish Belgian - he took when <sup>Kislinger</sup> B & A in Lytel.  
That we to have - met Roskey.

c 2300 we walk to Canne - c 2 days then with Dutchman.  
Then to Chen Enael by member of DB - stay with Li family -  
men enjoyed fun to - whole of good for escape - c 3 days then  
Then Vise with same DB men - then pick up P-SI John  
Chalot (NY) + John P. <sup>new</sup> Hanson (Brooklyn)  
c 70 days then with women - couldn't get out - figures they  
want to get - then across river from Argentan - with  
same DB men - last saw - with men named Harry -  
long from manufacturing in Argentan

Met some DB Os

c 2 days then

Then to place nearly for 2 days at night, however then no more.  
Out of hands of DB for this period - c wk.

Then to Tilly with former Capt Belgian army.

Quintus stayed Russians, Poles and in there. Active org.  
One man to come - led us - decided go on our - smooth together  
to Esneux - split - Chalot, Hanson, I to same I  
not with the 2 until early.

Chy has - train to Florenville on the Belg frontier -  
then walk to town not far from Sedan.

Early April S.D. <sup>G. Fient & Fresier - eny</sup> Evron sys - met with further - rather can help.  
Slight 2 days in trenches and.

To Montmedy

Then to Hannoville - Th. Hot - Billy - S-S-Ls

Sick - hospital going Vigneulles

Hédicourt - Buxières - Wionville - Apremont

Food when used - On main roads.

Wandering from water

Corneville - got help there

Bouzy - then to Trondes Lancyville - Fouzy

Then to Chaloy - Blemud - Bagnaux - Sclauy -

Crespy - Gouiller. Picked up and taken by Is farm.

(27 May) who took to Paris - stay 28 days because <sup>Meisterheim</sup> do not let more

But like - figure not work for me.

4 days from his house to frontier - 4 days then getting goods

Off main roads - avoid towns.

Miaumont - Dompaigne - Ailliville

Then on main roads - then on main roads.

St-Loup - Luxeuil - Lure - Héricourt - Mont-

beliard - Dieuze l'Eglise - then central bus stops

to Paris - stay more - 4 days while getting goods.

3) June Boncourt - St Dizier where cross - goods left on frontier

Turn into police - say it to prison camp - helped by Is

so under 4 days what camp - He wanted goods.

To Porrentruy 3-4 days - got Swiss sent me.

Ask of, turn set down - what plan for - go - my -

have 2 hrs - turn across frontier

Threatened not talk - I insist see MA - and I not go.

Later hear some fellows give the info. Then to

Bad Lauterbach - with 4 or 5 other men

23-24 days then so not see Swiss too soon.

Hickman Swiss DO -

Then to Bern - Swiss took - to Legation - interrogated by Swiss St  
let write what done. Introduced around MA's N.  
no interrogation

Used tunnel  
and info into  
BrO

To Is lion on Lac Lemna - 26 in a label -  
c 128 then altogether.

Allowed to go up to Montreux - had had checks - Legation do  
nothing about it.

On men suggested to be all in Swiss prison - nothing done  
about it.

Legation changed in for request by letter, tried it but

I had to sign papers that not escape - all then at  
Geneva signed - did write

Nobody from MA's office was in

c 24 Aug decide leave - now across Lac Lemna - start  
then 25 - but return from back - <sup>Mitchell</sup> knew situation in France.  
Ly - Woodis, Westerland, Garbisch

Told Capt Lehman that leaving - oh.

To Vevy - met Dickinson - who had got somebody to  
take out the

Restaurant Tagerance - center for Max Burt, said  
28 to Trois Torrents - with 8 ft - to Chotel -  
then to Thon of truck.

Then to Sonney - Grenoble - where met some troops.  
To Corsica, Naples - Algiers, Casablanca - train for Lands  
End.

Eaten at Naples - Caldwell also - Eaten interested - yet  
not in at of Burt -



T/Sgt Alexander S SWIDER, 33087688, 5942/385 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 4 Feb 44  
Intrvd 6 September 1944

SWIDER of the same crew as ROSKEY (E&E ) camde down W of MAASTRICHT between WYTINGEN and HEES. Fighters had finished up his plane after flak had knocked it out of formation. He bailed out at 26,000-25,000' and hurt his foot landing so that he could not move for half or three quarters of an hour. About an hour later he stopped a Flemish or Belgian man who took him to a place where Lt KISINGER was hidden in a haystack. That evening they were moved to a house where they met ROSKEY. About 2300 they walked to CANNE and stayed about seven days there with a Dutchman.

about three  
A member of the Armee Blanche took them to EBEN EMAEL where they stayed/with a French family and also with some men who had escapd from Germany. The whole village seemed good for escapers. The same Armee Blanche man took them to VISE where they picked up a P-51 pilot named John CHALOT, from NY, and also Lt John P HANSON, B of the crew, Brooklyn. They stayed about 40 days with some woman from whose cluthhes they seemed unable to get away. They seemed to think that they were wanted there to fight.

They moved to a place across the river from ARGENTAN ~~and stayed~~ with the same Armee Blanche man, of whom they saw no more, and stayed with a man named HARRY at a large farm at which cigarettes seemed to be manufactured---or else HARRY manufactured cigarettes. They met some Armee Blanche officers. After a couple of days they went to a nearby empty house for a couple fo days and then made a number of moves which SWIDER does not recall. For a period of a week or so they seemed to be out of Armee Blanche hands.

With a former Capt in the Bwlgian army they went to TILF where there was a most active organization which included a number of escaped Russians and Poles. One morning they had to run for it when the Germans came in. The five walked together to ESNEUX where they split up. CHALOT, HANSON, and SWIDER went to JUMEL and did not see the other two until they reached Switzerland. They took a train or tram to FLORENVILLE on the French frontier and walked across to a town not far

from SEDAN. They were heading for Switzerland because S-2 at their group had stupidly told them to head for Switzerland where they would be well treated and from which they could easily get out.

In early April SWIDER could not walk any farther and the other two went on by themselves, separating S of ETIEN or FRESNIES en W. SWIDER slept two days in trenches and found it pretty cold. He went then to HANNOVILLE, THILLOT, BILLY and sick though he was kept on going through VIGNEULES, HEUDICOURT, BUXIERES, WIONVILLE, APREMONT, getting food where he could and traveling on main roads. He got dysentery from the water he drank. At CORNIEVILL he received some help. He carried on to BOUCQ, TRONDES, LANEUVILLE, FOUCQ, CHALOY, BLEYMOND, BAGNEUX, ALLAIN, CREPY, GOVILLER. Around here he was picked up by a German or Alsatian farmer who took him to PAREY and kept him for 28 days, scarcely letting him move. About 27 May he brought SWIDER a bicycle and took him to the frontier, a trip of two days. They traveled off main roads and avoiding towns following the general route of MIRACOURT, DOMPAIRE, AILLVILLERS and then on main roads through StLOUP, LUXEUOL, LURE, HERICOURT, MONTBELIARD, and FECHÉ L'EGLISE. There SWIDER got into the hands of contrabandiers who smuggled tobacco and waited four days for a guide.

About 3 June SWIDER crossed into Switzerland in the BONCOURT-St DIZIERS region. The guide left him on the frontier. He turned himself into the police and declared that he had escaped from a German prison camp. Because he had been helped by the Germans he could not say what camp it was. The Swiss wanted him to give the number of his group. He was taken to Porrentruy for three days and there a Swiss IO asked him where he had been shot down, what plane he flew, what sq and gp he was and so on. They gave SWIDER two hours to talk or to be turned back across the frontier. SWIDER was not to be threatened in this fashion and he not only refused to talk and insisted to see the MA. He was disgusted to hear later that many men gave the Swiss a great deal of information in these interrogations.

With four or five other Americans he was sent to Bad Lostorf for 23 or 24 days cooling, but he had in the meantime given to a British officer what military information.



mation he possessed. HICKMAN (E&E ) seemed to be SAO. From here the Swiss took SWIDER to BERN where he was turned over to the Legation, introduced around the MA's office, and allowed to write out what he had done---without, apparently, any real interrogation. From here he went to Glion on Lac Lemman where he was in a hotel with some 26 others. Some 128 altogether were at the town. They were permitted to go only to Montreux. They had bed checks to which they objected in vain, for the Legation would give them no support on the point. One man suffocated to death in a Swiss prison (Lt DURGAN), and nothing was done about it. The Legation charged the men for coupons for buying clothes and toilet kit.

At Glion Swider signed a paper that he would not escape from Switzerland.

About 24 August he decided to leave. On 25 Aug he started to row across Lac Lemman, but a storm forced him back. He was accompanied by WOODIS, WESTERLUND, and GARBISH (E&E ) and by an Englishman named MITCHELL. He seems to have told from Capt LEHMAN (E&E ) that he was leaving and received no disapproval ~~in~~ that quarter. He went then to Vevey where he met HICKMAN who had already arranged for someone to take him out. He went to the Restaurant Temperance which was a Maquis center in Switzerland. On 28 Aug he went with eight Frenchmen to Trois Torrents and shortly found a truck to Thonon. From there he went to Annecy and Grenoble, meeting American troops at the latter place. He returned to England by way of Corsica, Naples, Algiers, and Casablanca.

DEE

He did a good job and deserves consideration for a Bronze Star.