

L80

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

E & E REPORT NO. 535  
EVASION IN FRANCE

26 March 1944  
(Date)

ROBERT H SWEATT, SGT, 38124585  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: WILHELMSHAVEN

17 missions  
(Number of Missions)

MIA: 7 January 1944  
Arrived in UK:

24 March 1944

566 Bomb Squadron, 389 Bomb Group  
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-405475	Capt	David L WILHITE		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-1699045	Major	Kenneth M CALDWELL		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-796606	1st Lt	Harold ROODMAN		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-734945	1st Lt	James J McCONNEL		MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	35406734	T/Sgt	Samuel W FLATTER		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	39243194	S/Sgt	Max J SNYDER		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	32465122	S/Sgt	Charles O DEWITT		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	34350273	T/Sgt	Harold L SAUNDERS		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	38124585	Sgt	Robert H SWEATT		NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	15318621	S/Sgt	George R CAPLINGER		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-740760	1st Lt	Wendell L DAILY		MIA

Were you wounded?

E - E Rpt. # 535

(Sgt. Robert H. Sweatt)

Evasion in France.

We were flying off our course returning from our target at Wilhelmshaven on 7 January 1944. Near Chartres fighters

FIGHTERS  
ATTACKED

~~attacked us. Our ship, suddenly~~ seemed to stop ~~in~~ in mid-air. ~~My left~~ ~~arm~~ ~~was~~ had been hit, and I had to put ~~on~~ on

my chute with one hand. Suddenly I was thrown against the other waist gunner, and as I stumbled to my feet I heard a loud explosion. I remember

FLUNG OUT  
OF SHIP

that my head and shoulders were pushed out of the waist ~~window~~ <sup>1</sup>, but the next thing that I recall is falling through the air. ~~It~~

I pulled my rife cord and then ~~it~~ saw pieces of our ship all about me and a fully inflated dinghy floating

above me. ~~The piece in which I landed was frozen~~ I landed <sup>9</sup> in a field, <sup>and</sup> took off my harness, <sup>but could not bury my chute</sup> and found when I <sup>in the frozen ground.</sup> tried to bury my chute that the ground was frozen. I

then ran, <sup>300 yds</sup> to a clump of trees, <sup>(300 yards away)</sup> and sat down next to a stack of <sup>grain-sheaves</sup> grain in this grove. Half a dozen Frenchmen

SURROUNDED  
BY  
FRENCHMEN

<sup>surrounded me.</sup> suddenly sprang up all around me. One of them asked whether I was English, and when I answered "American" he pulled off his clothes and gave them to me. <sup>After</sup> ~~then~~ I

CIVILIAN  
CLOTHES

had put <sup>them on</sup> on these clothes and my flying clothes <sup>(over)</sup> and my heated suit and

flying boots had been hidden in the ~~grass~~ sheaves, three young

**A GERMAN GUARD**  
Frenchmen and I walked back across the fields. We had not gone 300 yards when a German soldier came towards us and called to us to halt. One of the Frenchmen motioned me to stay where I was, and he went forward and talked to the soldier for several minutes. Finally the German made two of the young men pick up a large piece of metal from ~~which he~~ our ship and carry it to a car, which was standing on a hill ~~about 400 yards away~~ in the distance. I

**QUICK THINKING**  
motioned to the other Frenchman, and we ~~snatched~~ grabbed another piece of metal and walked off towards the car. After we had gone about 400 yards I ducked into a <sup>clump</sup> growth of trees and covered myself with leaves and twigs. I remained ~~there~~ hidden

**PICKED UP AND PUT TO BED**  
here for six hours, and after dark the young Frenchman and his father returned in a cart, took me to their farmhouse, and put me to bed. They kept me in bed for five days while they treated my wounds and then took me to another farmhouse from which where the rest of my journey was

**JOURNEY ARRANGED**  
arranged.

Nasold F. CHERNISS<sup>18</sup>  
S. Sergeant<sup>10</sup>

RECORDED BY FRENCHMEN

CURTAIN CLOTHES

E and E Rpt # 505  
(Sweatt)

Appendix B

- a) The General Motors plant in Paris has been entirely demolished. (Observation, February 1944)
- b) The French said that Russian P/W's were being used to man A/A guns in Paris. (Hearsay, February 1944)

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 38124585 Sgt. Robert H. Sweatt

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 in jump*
- 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?
- 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes, I lost it. (in jump) lost in jump.*  
State color of stripes and letters.  
If NO, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *no*

(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.

*Transp. post in*

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

*Lost in jump.*

b. ~~Did you use them?~~

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM

*yes evaders  
At Nethel. quite a few lectures - by ~~personnel that escaped.~~*

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 escapers?

*Do just as the french people tell you.*

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F and E Rpt. # 535  
(Sweatt)

Appendix C.

Sweatt was picked up by Dupont, father and son (family consists of parents, two sons, and two daughters), and was kept by them in their farmhouse for five days. He was there given medical care. He was then moved to another farmhouse (Man called Lucien, wife, old lady, and three children). He stayed at this house until 1 February 1944. During his stay the sheriff (? chief of police?) visited him and gave him his identity card and papers. On 1 February the sheriff took him to the railway station and then a Frenchman and his wife took Sweatt by train to Paris ~~and~~ to a laundry run by a woman who had three sons and a girl ~~but~~ who helped her in the laundry. This was in S. E. Paris. Sweatt remained here until 17 February. ~~A~~ dark, slightly bald French captain who spoke English, came here to interrogate him and said that he would be out in two or three days. On the night of ~~the~~ 17 February a man called Roger (35 or 40; speaks English) and a garage mechanic, Maurice, came to see him, <sup>Roger</sup> took his name and address, and said that he would radio England. Sweatt

has a wife, Virgin

(over)

then moved to Maurice's home in N. W. Paris and stayed there until 20 March. ~~That night~~ That night Maurice and Roger drove him to the station where they met the Captain who said that Sweatt could not leave until the next night. The next night Maurice took him to the station where he followed a French guide on to the train where he found a ~~Sp~~ Canadian pilot, Woodhouse, ~~Chavis~~ ~~the~~ Shevchik, and other Americans. They rode to Quingamp where Sweatt and Woodhouse were taken to the house of an old woman who was a nurse. That night a truck called for them. Shevchick, Roseblatt, and one other American were already in the truck. From here Sweatt's story is the same as Shevchick's and Roseblatt's.

10/10/10



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

E & E REPORT NO. 535  
EVASION IN France

Mar. 26, 1944  
(Date)

Robert H. Sweett Lt. 38124585  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Seventeen  
(Number of Missions)

MIA: Jan. 7, 1944  
Arrived in UK:

566<sup>th</sup>  
(Squadron)

389<sup>th</sup>  
(Group)

Mar. 24, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT Capt. David S. Wilhite Official Disposition Narrators Disposition

CO-PILOT Maj. Caldwell

NAVIGATOR Rudeman <sup>1st Lt</sup> Harold Rudeman, 0796606

BOMBARDIER A.J. McConnell

RADIO OPERATOR Sam W. Glatter

TOP TURRET GUNNER Max J. Snyder - S/Sgt 39243194-

BALL TURRET GUNNER C. A. Dewitt

WAIST GUNNER Left. Harold S. Saunders

WAIST GUNNER Right. Robert H. Sweett Here

TAIL GUNNER George R. Caplinger

Co-pilot - Dailey

French said that there were four chutes + that one man had come loose from his chute.

Were you wounded?

yes. I was hit high in the chest, in the neck and two places in my right leg and one on my left arm and two places on my right hand

# 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) Robert H. Sweatt      Signed Robert H. Sweatt  
Rank Sgt.      A. S. N. 38124585-      Dated Mar. 26 1944  
Unit 566th Bomb Sq. 389th Bomb Gp      Witness \_\_\_\_\_

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. *Robert H. Sweatt Sgt. 38124585*
2. Decorations. *air medal, two oak leaf clusters*
3. Unit or Squadron. *566th Bomb Sq.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *389th Bomb Grp.*
5. Date of Birth. *May 9, 1922*
6. Length of Service. *18 months*
7. Private Address. *Louington, New Mexico Route 1.*
8. Job as civilian. *oil field worker*
9. From what field did you take off? *Hitchel*
10. Take off time. *700.*
11. Date and target. *Jan. 7, 1944 - wildhamshaven*
12. Where did you land? *chartres*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *yes*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *Right. waist gunner*
15. Were you wounded? *yes*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *no.*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *no. no.*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *yes.*
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?  
*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? *no*
22. Date of arrival in Spain.
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K.

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.,.....)

In north Paris there were barracks where troops lived. They also practiced on a vacant lot there. There were quite a few soldiers riding the sub

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

Sweatt 535

~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> took off from Bethel 0700 on 7 Jan 44  
to bomb Wilhelmshaven. We were returning from  
target, off course, fighters hit us at Chartres  
~~we~~ I saw them shoot down. B-24. Three minutes  
afterwards our ship was hit. Plane seemed to stop in  
midair, a loud spewing sound. I was hit in the  
left arm which was dead. I put chute on. I was thrown  
against other waist gunner. I stumbled up to feet +  
got <sup>through</sup> to his waist window. My head was out of window  
loud explosion. Next thing I knew I was falling  
through air I pulled cord. The sky was full of  
pieces of plane and a fully inflated dinghy above me.  
I hit in a field + took off ~~the~~ harness. Ground  
was frozen so I couldn't bury chute. I ran for  
clump of trees 300 yds away. In running left  
my heated coat. In trees I ran to a shock of  
corn. Sat down. About 6 F. men + boys suddenly  
sprang up around me. One asked English? I said  
American. He pulled off his clothes + gave  
them to me. My heated suit + flying boots  
buried in a shock of corn. We walked (30 F. boys  
with me) back across field. About 300 yds. a

German soldier armed came towards us. He yelled at us. The 2  
F man told me to stay there + went off + talked to  
soldier. The soldier made 2 boys carry piece of tin from  
plane to car on hill. So I + another F man picked  
up another piece of tin + started towards hill. After  
walking  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile I ducked into trees + covered  
myself up. Here for 6 hours. After dark the  
F boy + his father came for me in wagon +  
took me to their farmhouse where I stayed  
in bed 5 days. They treated my wounds. After 5 days  
Gave me 1600 francs (on the 12 Jan)

Dupont  
Farm when Charidels

(Father + mother 2 sons + 2 daughters)

they moved me to another farmhouse about 2  
miles away. Stayed until 1 of Feb. Here sheriff came  
(~~old~~ man + wife + old lady, 3 children)

Lucien —

to see me + fixed an identity card for me. On 1 Feb  
a man and wife came to the house, sheriff took  
us to station, + the couple took me to Paris  
to a woman (ran a laundry; 4 girls to help; 3 boys)  
(S.E. Paris)

A Captain, spoke English, dark slightly  
bold - came + talked to me, + in terrorgated  
me + a kid told how he got in 2 or 3 days.

Here from 1 - 17 Feb. got another card + had  
pictures. I stayed with 3 boys in a hotel but  
ate at laundry. On the 17<sup>th</sup> at night a man  
(Roger) (Maurice)

(3 or 4) speaks English came with garage man  
+ got me, took home + address + said had radio  
N.W

England. Stayed with Maurice in N. Paris until  
around Neuilly sur Seine. Vivien

Roger came to see me twice (has wife) <sup>making to see me</sup>  
20 or 21 March. On 20 March at night we were going to  
train and were in car and were stopped by Germans  
armed + talked to Maurice + wife + woman in front of car.

Roger was in back with me. I had to show my papers 3  
which said I was mute. The Germans apologized +  
left. We went to station & the captain said I couldn't  
leave until next night. Next night Maurice took  
me to station. Here I followed a Fman. On  
the train I met Spitfire pilot (Woodhouse, Canadian),  
one Canadian, Lt. Cherchick + his gunner and others.  
Changed at St. Briere, rode to Quingamp. I and  
the Spitfire pilot taken to house of an old woman  
(nurse). That night we got on a truck which  
came for us + 5 of us <sup>(Cherchick, Roentgen, and other)</sup> were put in house where  
we stayed for 2 nights. Policeman came in + guided  
us to a rendezvous in house about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from  
beach. Drove there in single file to beach.



Appendix B  
(Sweett)

- a) General Motors Plant in Paris completely demolished (Observation February 44).
- b) ~~A battery of 4 heavy A.A. guns near General Motors Plant in Paris (Observation Feb. 44)~~
- c) French told that Russian P/w's were being used to man A.A. guns in Paris (Hearsey Feb 44).

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

DATE: 25 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, MANUEL M. BOGOTT, 2nd Lt, AC D-678392

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

ROBERT H. SWEATT, Sgt, AC, 38124585

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.

Robert H. Sweatt

Manuel M Bogott

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



=====  
The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as ROBERT H. SWEATT  
Sgt, AC, 38124585 (566 Bomb Squadron - 389 Bomb Group)  
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. WARANDA SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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