

GLIDER PILOT INTERROGATION

SECRET

Pilot: John L. Schanck, [REDACTED] F/O, 85th TC Sq.
Co-Pilot: Leon C. Stone, [REDACTED] F/O, 85th TC Sq.
Glider: CG4A (4).
Date: 9 June 1944. Serial 28

We landed at 0410, 6 June 1944, in Field B (Grid Coordinates, 348-839). We were fired upon while in tow and were hit by heavy fire in the left wing and rear of fuselage.

We washed out our left gear on landing, but all equipment and personnel was okay. There was no fire directed at us when we were on the ground.

We noted the ship of Lt. Ittner which was damaged and spent several hours taking personnel and equipment from this glider. Capt. Russel and one corporal were injured, the Captain having a broken right leg and a dislocated left hip.

The French came to investigate the glider, but fled. Later a small boy and an old man came back to point out directions. We got transportation for Capt. Russel, the Corporal, Lt. Ittner and F/O Levering. We proceeded to Corquebut to French Calvary (French staffed).

We left for the assembly area northwest of Ste. Mere Eglise and saw enemy action near Chef-du-Pont. We proceeded to Gamboville south of Ste. Mere Eglise and joined paratroopers who were withdrawing from that area.

We later came back to Corquebut to see how Lt. Ittner and F/O Levering were getting along. They were still with French civilians who was of some help. We spent the night at Corquebut. French civilians collected 30 pararacks, stored them in a barn and turned them over to the paratroopers. A first aid paratrooper was brought back.

We saw gliders coming in and made our way towards them. We found a first-aid station and a jeep was dispatched. We were detailed to search and guard a German prisoner. We reported the position of pararacks to the paratroopers who spotted them on a map.

Snipers were active towards the beach so Stone and Goodman (of the 436th Group) went in search with a flame thrower. A group of 14 marched down the road toward Ste. Marie du Mont. Out of town snipers opened up and an MP 1st lieutenant asked us to go back to town for help. We were strafed by an ME 109. We caught a GI truck to the beachhead, passing German prisoners, paratroopers, etc. The beachhead was very orderly. The Germans came over with 190's and bombed the beach. We were put on an LST and put on the British Cruiser AREBUS which took us back to Weymouth where a truck took us to Gresham Common.

SOUVENIRS: Knife.

RECOMMENDATIONS: M1 is too heavy.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005

SECRET