

PERSONAL ACTION REPORT

"SNEDE"

Name Wallace A. Swanson
your rank on D-day? Captain 1st Lt.
did you belong? Able Company of 502nd Parachute Regiment

Did you have a nickname or "FAKE" that was
To what particular company and larger unit

1. Can you recall anything about your stay in the marshaling area (such as preparation for the mission, meals, amusements etc.) yes. Checking equipment to be sure it was in ready condition. (2nd) Being over P-DAY OBJECTIVES + BRIEFING PLATOON ON MISSIONS. MEALS WERE GOOD THOUGH IN CLOSE QUARTERS.

2. What do you recall of your trip over the English Channel and the approach to the Cotentin Peninsula? LOOKING OUT THE DOOR + WINDOWS OF PLANE ONE COULD SEE THE OUTLINE OF ISLANDS, LIGHTS OF CITIES + ROAD. SHIP LICK AREA APPROACH TO THE PENINSULA FROM ATLANTIC OCEAN. THIS COMMUNICATED NIGHT + PARTIALLY ENJOY IN AREAS

3. Anything occur as you approached the drop zone? WE COULD SEE SOME CITIES BELOW. FLACK + TRACER BULLETS COMING UP. SOME HITTING OUR PLANE. NO DAMAGE. OUR PLANE TOOK 3 EVASIVE ACTS FROM FLACK OR SOME THINGS WE WERE LOW OVER OUR LOAD (Jumped) JUMPED, CHECK GEAR - 17000 FT. HIT 14000 FT IN ESTIMATED AREA - EAST COAST OF PENINSULA. WATER ABOUT 10 FT HIGH. Landed on top of PLAINLAND WEST COAST.

4. Did you encounter any difficulty in getting out of your chute? NO. If yes, please describe: -- JUST HIT GROUND + WET AREA PRETTY HARD

5. What did you do once you got loose from the harness? OFFERED TO GO TO THE WEST OF STICK TO COLLECT BARK. ONE MEMBER OF PLATOON WAS TAKEN UP AND STUCK TO THE MOVING WEST + UP TO THE AREA OF HILLTOP. A FEW FEET FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL OFF INTO BUSHES. LAMINATED OUT OF FEAR + PANIC. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE END OF MY LIFE.

6. Did you find any other members of your drop stick? YES. If yes, name any you can recall: APG LANE. (I believe)

How many of those who survived the war? ALL. AS I REMEMBERED THEM. INCLUDING BUT NOT 1, 12

7. What was your particular duty assignment? WAS ASSIGNED TO BE THE FIRST MAN TO GO TO THE WEST OF STICK TO COLLECT BARK + TO BE THE FIRST MAN TO GO TO THE TOP OF THE HILL.

8. Did you accomplish your task? YES. AFTER CHECKING ON THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT. WE PROCEEDED TO 2ND (FOURBARVILLE) - AS WE WENT ALONG MORE MEMBERS OF COMPANY CAME ALONG. + SOME SOLDIERS OF OTHER REGIMENT OR DIV. UNITS.

9. Who was the officer in charge of your particular group for this mission? CAPT DAVIDSON Was he present in your vicinity after the jump? NO. If yes, how many men did he collect?

10. Describe as best you can the action or actions in which you were involved on D-day: (11:05 AM) After landing - collected men of unit + others moved toward higher ground - (DARK OF NIGHT NOW - 2:00-2:30 AM) moving along we used signal (CRICKET) 3:00 AM MOVING SLOW ALONG TO HILLTOP + HEDGE ROWS. BACK YARDS - FENCE LINES - SHOOTING AT ENEMY IN DISTANCE AS DAWN CAME - (GUN EMPLACEMENT KNOCK OUT BY AF) - CHECKED MAPS etc. other officers + men + we moved toward Fourbarville. more men in company now. (DAY LIGHT + DAWN) company action + house to house fighting of Fourbarville + road. - Strong point on high ground at edge of village captured by dusk.

11. Do you recall the names and addresses of any medics attached to the 502nd on this particular day? I remember their wonder aid + action but I am at a loss to remember their name + address. 2 medical men + medical officer helped save Capt + Fitzgerald's life + other wounded men during those early morning hours. Wallace A. Swanson

Feb. 20 1966

Dear Koskimaki:

In answer to your letter I have enclosed the questionere. Some of the comments may be hard to read and if you need more details I'll try to help some way.

I have a pretty complete list of all men in "A" company during most of the WW II. The action at Foucarville was fairly accurate and the men involved, though as in many and most action there are those who ^{are} not heard of and their small individual action may play a vital part in objective. For the individual soldiers -- in most cases -- was dependable and wanted to do the right thing to help the cause. Most could think for themselves and come up with good action.

I have received many letters over the years from different men in my company and treasure their remarks. I have helped some by answering letters and giving assistance where I could.

I attended the last division reunion which was held at Ft. Campbell Ky. and it was a wonderful vacation. *Sh. only one I attended*

Answering another part of your letter -- I was an End on the Kansas State football team from 1938 '39 & '40 teams. I remember playing at Michigan State. Your team had a pretty powerfull team the day we played you. A little side-light of these college, army service and years since have been most rememberable. I was ~~not~~ blessed with many fine results and associated with many fine lads and men. The years as I remember from my boy-hood days on the western Kansas farm, college, football honorable mention, Infantry and parachute duty in service, End on the Eastern Army All-Star football team (coached by Bob Neyland and Herman Hickman) 1942. War years and coming out of it in one piece and healthy though many close calls and tight spots. Then the years that have followed -- finished my education (BS & MS degrees, Coached at Jr. College in Kansas and now a supervisor with W.S. Dickey Clay Mfg. Co. My family is wonderful and such a blessing -- loving wife, fine son and daughter now at the university --- Its great to be an american and helping with the responsibilities of Freedom. -- sort of carried off there but these years have been the best. AS I can help others it will even be better.

Let me hear from you if you need what little I may be able to add. I'll try and give you more names and addresses if you desire them. I should find time to do some of it.

I have a note and letter regarding S.L.A. Marshall's book on "Night Drop". I thought and tried to remember just some of the details of the action he wrote about in 1944. ~~the~~ ~~book~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~out~~ ~~yet~~ ~~but~~ ~~the~~ ~~details~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~action~~ ~~are~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~book~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~book~~ ~~is~~ ~~out~~ ~~now~~. Marshall used to much hind-sight and not always facts that had to take place with men and equipment at hand.

Has ~~the~~ "Cassidy's Battalion" book come out yet ?? I understand he was writing one but had't heard lately.

Send me other letter questionaire and I'll try to get you more data

Sincerely

Wallace A. Swanson
WALLACE A. SWANSON

excuse the typing?

company men or what

13. Do you recall the names of any of the commo people in your company on D-day?

14. A story about a 502nd (1st Bn) medic has been related to me by several people. This trooper spent D-day tending jump-injured troopers while himself hobbling about on a makeshift tree branch crutch because he had a self-splinted broken leg. Do you recall anything about this man? Several have suggested that he was a medic named Rudd. In RWD a Rudd is mentioned as having won the DSC.

Not known to me by that name.

15. Following is a list of Able Company men listed in the Association Directory or names supplied by members contacted thus far. Will you X any of these men whom you feel were present in Normandy on D-day?

Charles V. Asay

John Kalinowski X *RAD. OPER.*

George Rucker

Robert Barnes X_o

Hugh Kiser X

Wallace A. Swanson X

Ted Goldman

Maurice LaGrave X

Ken Thompson X

Michael Gromack X_o X

Louis P. Merlane X

Albert J. Wise

Matt C. Jemiolo X

Rex C. Partington

Charles Whitchurch X

*Lt. _____ Smith

*Hewitt Tippins X

*Charley Nyan X *(OPER. SGT.)*
RYAN
OF MASS.

*Need addresses for these starred.

GA. BOXER.
his last address was not covered.

Send me another one of these sheets -- I'll try to get more data to you.