

I-8

PW/EX/SWITZ/3658

SECRET

SHEET I

P.O.W. REPORT

1. NUMBER WX5231. RANK (ACTG) Pte. NATIONALITY Australian  
 (WS )  
 (TEMP)

SURNAME Christensen. CHRISTIAN NAMES Harold Andrew.

UNIT 2/28. Btn. A.I.F. DATE AND PLACE 27.7.42. El Alemein.  
 OF CAPTURE

DATE AND PLACE 11.9.43. PG.106/26. DATE OF ARRIVAL 7.10.43.  
 OF FINAL ESCAPE Murina Palestro. IN SWITZERLAND.

2- BRIEF CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE  
 My unit had been surrounded and overrun by German tanks.

3.

WHERE IMPRISONED			HOW EMPLOYED
CAMP NO AND PLACE	PERIOD		
	FROM	TO	
Benghazi.	27.7.42.	24.8.42.	Farm work.
P.G.75. Bari.	25.8.42.	31.10.42.	
P.G.57. Gruppignano.	1.11.42.	12.4.43.	
P.G.106/26.	13.4.43.	10.7.43.	
<u>Murina Palestro.</u>			

4.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPES

WHERE FROM	DATE	BRIEF DETAILS

P.O.W. REPORT.

NUMBER WX5231.....RANK Pte......NAME AND.....Christensen, H.A......  
INITIAL

- 5. DETAILS OF FINAL ESCAPE and SUB-SEQUENT JOURNEY UNTIL TAKEN OVER BY ORGANISATION (Names and addresses of helpers must be entered on Appendix A and not mentioned in this report)
- (Escape plans and other information which would jeopardise security or identification of organisation or helpers must be entered in Appendix C and not mentioned in this report)

The Germans were in the vicinity of the camp and on the 11.9.43 the Italian guard refused to let us out . We were afraid the Germans might take us away so with some friends I lifted the main gate off its hinges . The Commandant screamed warnings and ordered the guard to fire on us . They did not fire but threatened to do so . We ignored them . As soon as the gate was down we went out . The commandant then calmed down and gave us a rough map of the route to Switzerland.

.....RANK.....NAME AND.....  
INITIAL

- ..... (Names and addresses of helpers must be entered on Appendix A and not mentioned in this report)
- ..... (Escape plans and other information which would jeopardise security or identification of organisation or helpers must be entered in Appendix C and not mentioned in this report)

DATE.. 13.7.44.....

PLACE.....  
Adelboden.

*A. Hunter* Lieut A.I.F  
.....  
INTERROGATING OFFICER

P.O.W. REPORT.

7. ESCAPE INFORMATION.

- To include :
- (a) Last part of journey to Switzerland which is not mentioned in main report.
  - (b) Information of organisation.
  - (c) Escape plans in or outside camps during capitulation (This will only be given by Camp Leaders and the senior officer or N.C.O. present in areas from each camp)

We started walking to the Swiss frontier . After walking for a day we arrived at the village of Gatinara . Here we were told that the British had landed at Genoa . We then turned south and got to the village Olcenengo where we lived with a family for a week. Here we met other escapees who advised against going further south . We then started walking north again and reached Villa Boit in 2 days , where we stayed with a family for about 9 days . This area then became dangerous and we started walking north again . We walked for 4 days and reached the village of Rimasca. Here we met a guide who took us to the frontier which we reached in two days . We crossed at Monte Moro.