[4661]

SHERMAN, RAPHAEL 404804

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES ACCESS STATUS

# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The following biographical details are required for use at R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London.

SURNAME SHERMAN NUMBER 404 804
CHRISTIAN NAMES
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING
DEGREES ETC
DATE OF BIRTH
EDUCATED
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE &: N 1942.
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE
PLACES OF TRAINING
CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES . Association
SPORT (TRAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC
PATHER
WIFE
HOME ADDRESS 189 Queen Street Bristone.
SIGNATURE
DATE
DIMP OF PARALYISTON
DATE OF BEDAEKATION
ARADQUARTERS USE OFTEN - DO NOT FILL IN
ATADAMATORS USE CITA - DO NOT TILL DI. AWARDS
AMARDS
AWARDS
AWARDS
AVARDS .  CATERIARY . DITTERVISION .  RADIO . OTHER RECYSCIOUS.
AVARDS .  CATERIARY . DITTERVISION .  RADIO . OTHER RECYSCIOUS.
AVARDS .  CATEBURY . DATESVISIS.  RADIO . OTHER RETERMINES.
AMARDS USE CITA - DO NOT FILE DE AMARDS DESERVISION CATEGORIE DETERVISION RADIO OTHER HETERICES
AMARDS . AMARDS USE CITA - DO NOV PILL DE AMARDS .  CATEGORY
AMARDS USE CITA - DO NOT FILE DE AMARDS DESERVISION CATEGORIE DETERVISION RADIO OTHER HETERICES

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

R.T.A.

The following biographical details are required for use at R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London.

SURTAME SHERMON	. NUMBER #0# \$0#
CHRISTIAN NAMES RAPHAGE	
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERLIG	460 590
DEGREES ETC	
DATE OF BIRTH	TACE
RDUCATED	
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE 8: N: 40:	
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE	
PLACES OF TRAINING	
CIVILIAN CARESE AND ACTIVITIES CLES	٣
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS RIC	
PATHER	
WIFE	
HOME ADDRESS 40 . COLONIA. MOTURE. LIFE O	PICE. 189 QUEEN ST. BRISBANE
HOME ADDRESS 46 .Concerner. MATURE. A. LARG. O.	SIGNATURE
HOUR ADDRESS 40 Commun. Materia, Life 9	
HOUR ADDRESS to COLORUM. MUTUAL ANG O	SIGNATURE
	SIGNATURE
DATE OF EMBARKATION	SIGNATURED  DATE  Y - DO NOT FILE, IN
DATE OF IMPAREATION	SIGNATURED  DATE:  X - DO NOT FILL IN
DATE OF EMPLEMENTION	SICHARORS  DATE  Y - 20 FOT YELL DE  CRIENIENE
DATE OF IMPARKATION	SICHARORS  DATE  Y - 20 FOT YELL DE  CRIENIENE
DATE OF EMPLEMENTION	SIGNATURES  NATE
DATE OF IMPARKATION	SIGNATURE  X - DO ROT VILLA IR  PRIENTERS  REPRESENTES
DATE OF IMPLARMATION  HUMPSDANGTERS USE ON  AWARDS  CATEGORY  PADTO  OTHER	SIGNATURE  N - DO NOT FILL IN  N - DO NOT FILL IN  SIGNATURE  SIGN
DATE OF IMPLEMATION  HUMPHONETERS USE CHI AWARDS  CATEGORY  PADIO OTHER	SIGNATURES  DATE  Y - 20 POT FILL IN  UNITED LINE  REFERENCIES
DATE OF DEPAREMATION  HEADQUARTERS USE ON  AWARDS  CATEGORY  PADTO  OTHER	SIGNATURES  2 - 20 FOT FILL IN  PULLAVIEWS  SECRETARIES
DATE OF IMMARKATION HUMDQOATCHEZ LIE CM AWARDS CATEGORY  PADIO OTHER	SIGNATURES  2 - 20 FOT FILL IN  PULLAVIEWS  SECRETARIES

gerood fell,

File 19/Enc. 13

SECRE

I.9/S/P.G./LIB/291

The information contained in this report is to be treated as SECRET

STATEMENT BY

A.404804 W.O. SHERMAN, Robert, 460 sqdn., Bomber Command.

Captured: 28 Jul 42.

Liberated: 22 Apr 45.

Date of Birth: 23 Oct 10 R.A.F.Service: Since 8 Nov. 40. Peacetime Profession: Accountant. Private Address: 289 Queen Street, ERISBANE. Australia.

#### 1. CAPTURE

We were shot down on 25 Jul 42 on our way back from a raid on DUISSUME I landed about 5 Milos, from DUISSUME and buried my pareointe etc. I landed in a smamp and slept the rest of the night in a forest. Mext day I walked in a smamp and slept the rest of the night in a forest, which is a small farm, and the farmer fed me and let me have a wash. I slept in a small farm, and the farmer fed me and let me have a wash. I slept in a forest again that night and was discovered by some members of the German Army who took me to MINSTEM to the Luftwaffe. I spent the night here and was then taken to DUIAS UISS

## 2. CAMPS IN WHICH IMPRISONED.

Dulag Luft (FRANKFURT) Stalag 344 (LAMSDORF) 29 Jul - 7 Aug 42 8 Aug 42 - Jan 45.

### 3. ATTEMPTED ESCAPES

In Oct 42 I changed identity with Pte. SHARP of the Palestinian Fidness Corps and joined a working Commando. I made my scoops along and walked to STETUN. I had chocolate and sandwiches and went on walking to GREWRITZ. Here I was caught by the Germans and sent straight back to camp. I did seven days solitary confinement for this.

#### T.TBERATTON.

I was liberated 22 Apr 45.

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S. 9(W) 2 Jul 45

Personal file

#### TOP SECRET

he information in this report is to be treated as:

#### HOST SECRET

NO: A404804 RANK: W/O. NAME: SHERMAN INITIALS: R.

SQUADRON: 460

PEACETINE PROFESSION: Chief Clerk.

AUSTRALIAN ADDRESS: c/o Colonial Mutual Life Office,

meenglend

NARRATED BY: W/O. R. Sherman.

Description of Stalag 344.

I CERTIFY that the following is a true and accurate account of my experiences.

SIGNED: R. SHERMAN.

DATE: 1.8.45.

## STALAG 344 - LANSDORF

The size of the compound at 344 was approximately 90 yds. X 50 yds.

In this there were 8 buts roughly 90 ft. X 30 ft. in size. These buts were divided in two by a small wash-room and latrine in the middle.

This made two dormitories, called "A'e" and "B'e". In these buts we normally had from 130 to 170 inhabitants, the peak being reached during the Winter of 1943 when there were 195. At that time about 60 per hut had to sleep on the floor, on forms, on tables and on the doors of lockers laid on the floor. The buts had concrete floors and were built on a slight slope in the ground. The result was that as the top ends of the buts had their floors about 18 inches below the ground level the moisture case through in quantity during the wet months.

In each dormitory in the hat there were eight 25-wast light bulbs for which, by bribery and scrounging, we substituted stronger ones. We had three-tier bunks with palliasses full of straw for mattresses. The mater supply was very poor, there being only one tap for each hut, and water available for about three hours per day. Hot showere were available to us every ten to eightedn days.

The latrines were situated outside the buts each having accommodation for forty, for the use of one thousand men. The cisterns more often than not would not flush, and the place soon became decidedly insanitary. The International Red Gross complained to the Germans on each of their visits, but nothing much was ever done.

There were large central heating stoves in the huts, three to each section, but because of the fuel supply, they were not effective. A week's fuel issue would normally be sufficient for one day. We supplemented the fuel supply by bribery, scrounging and using bed ends or bed boards. To economise on fuel we built small stoves and miniature forges. Eventually the black-out shutters were used to give us warmth. Some of the Ps.O.W. working in the cook-house scrounged coal and this, with our ewn other little bits from the beds etc., usually managed to allow us fires for the coldest times of the day and year.

The cook-house supplied us with Swede Soup, cooked potatoes and, on occasions, hot water. The remainder of the cooking we did on our self-manufactured stores.

The only area available for recreation was that between the hmts, and naturally this meant that windows were occasionally broken. The Germans would never replace broken windows so we had to stop the gap as best we could with Red Cross boxes.

The food rations received from the Detaining Fower were vary meagre, consisting in the main of bread, potatoes, swedes and meat soup (every ten weeks).

The Air Force compound was in the midst of a large Army camp, which was a base for working parties. No aircrew were ever allowed out on these parties or for recreational walks. Some did substitute for Army personnel, either with the idea of eventual escape, or to work the black Market and so ease the food situation a little.

MOST SECRET

NARRATED BY:

Aus.404804 W/o. SHRMAN R.

Jendon: \*\*Co
R.A.A.F. Representative and Barrack
Commander at Staler Md. Lamsdorf

The information in this report is to be considered as MOST SECRET

For some time after our arrival at Stalag 344, letters and parcels were coming through very irregularly to us, and the prisoners were wasting their only too few letterforms and postcards making enquiries to R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters. We held a meeting of all Australians and decided to appoint a representative to deal with all official communications with Overseas Headquarters, Australian Red Cross, Australian Comforts Fund. I was selected and worked in that capacity. Another part of my duties as Barrack Commander was the general welfare of those in my charge. This meant constant communication with the German Commandant through the German Lagor Officer.

During September of 1942 it was decided by the German Command that all P.O.W's in our compound were to be chained as reprisals because of alleged ill treatment of German prisoners in British hands. Eventually, early in 1943, we were informed that all Australian personnel were to be unchained in view of the fact that the Australian Government had refused to take reprisals against Germans held in Australia. We immediately refused to be unchained stating that we were still British and that we would take our share of the discomfort and hardship in the same manner as was being meted out to others of British nationality. I communicated, through the Red Cross, with the Australian Government and the British War Office and informed them of our attitude. The Germans refused to keep us in chains, but we were adamant. Finally the Germans broke the impasse by moving us to a compound where the chaining of prisoners had never been carried out. and put all Australians into the one barrack. It was clear to us that the Germans were continually trying to drive a wedge between the Dominion and United Kingdom personnel.

It was after we had been moved that I became barrack commander.

I forwarded requests, complaints and suggestions, on behalf of those in my barrack, to the German Commandant once a month. Anything more urgent

we tried to push through as quickly as possible. When new prisoners, whether R.A.A.F. or A.I.F. arrived at the camp I visited each of our chaps and collected articles such as surplus clothing, soap, cigarettes, etc., for distribution to the new, and scantily kitted out, arrivals, also if any of the chaps were doing a term of confinement in the camp gacl (always known in Germany as the 'Cooler'), we sauggled as much stuff to them as was possible in order to make their solitary state not cuite so umbearable.

I also did a lot of work auditing the Red Cross accounts, and gave a helping hand in the endeavour we made to pep up the administation of the camp which was being done by long term Army prisoners.

We found that generally speaking we managed to get a fair standard of co-operation from the German authorities, except during the tying up and chaining period.

I certify that this report is a true and accurate account of events in Stalag 344 during my term of imprisonment there.

(Sgd) R. Sherman Date - 4. 7. 45

BOST SECRET

NAKRAJED By.

Aus. 404104 "Jo Sheeman R.

POUNDRON: 560

RAAF refusintative and Barrick
Commander at Staleg sur Kennoderf.

The myomation in this report is to be considered as MOST SECRET.

for some time after an arrival at Staleg 344
letters and fatels were coming through very integrably
to us, and the presents making their only tiss
few letterforms and forteness making inequiries
to h.A.F. duelsias headquartin. We held a
meeting fall historialisms and decided to appoint a
representative to and with all official communications
with characa H.A.C., and tealian led hoss, australian
lamferts fund. I was celested and visited
in that cafacity. Another part of my
oblitis as Barrack lammander was the general
welfere of those in my change. This meant constant
communication with the general commanders through
the general agencypies

he german command that all rows in and compand may be german command that all rows in and compand mere to be chained as reprised because of alleged ill treatment of german ferromes in British hands. Extendibly early in 1943, me were informed that all two tradein ferromed must be melanical in wiew of the fact that the bustralian personnent had refused to take reprised against germans held in two tradia. We immediately refused to be methanical stating that me were still British and that me mount take our share

of the discountest and backship in the same numerous is more being metal and to other of the same that is allowed to other of the same that the discounters and the Printish their Office and Information than of our attitude. The general replaced to more home the same that the general to not the same course casemant. I will be the general backet the impossion to general the general section of the same course and the same than the same course and the same than the same course and the same than the same course the same than the same

that I beam hanced temmonated. I prometed again to make the second temmonates. I prometed again to make the second temporate temmonates to make a make a make to make the second temporate to the to the temporate temporate to the temporate temporates and the temporates and the second temporates and the second temporates and the second temporates and t

The his live of the control of the his live of the his live of the indicated of the live o

inas laing clone ly long tern lowing presences.

Interpretation of comments of the trump of contraction of comments.

I entire that this report is a time and assemble assault of events in Stateg & 44 during my term of impresonment there.

(SIGNES). Referenced DATE, 4-7-45

# TOP SECRET.

The information in this refert is to be treated as Most SECRET.

No. 1404801 RANK: WO. NAME: SHERMAN INITS: R.

SQUADRON: 460

PRACETIME PROFESSION: CHIEF CLERK

AUSTRALIAN ADDRESS: 4 COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE

289 QUEEN ST

NARRATED BY: W/o. R. Sherman Description of Staleg 344.

I certify that the following is a true and account of my experiences.

DATE: 1-8-45.

BRISBANE Q' AND

# STALAG 344. LAMSDORF.

The size of the compound at 344 was approximately go yds x 50 yds. In This think were to hut roughly 90 ft x 30 ft in single in two by a small wash room and. lature in the middle . This made two downitones, called "A's" and "Bs". In these but we normally had from 130 to 170 inhabitants, the peak long reached during the Winter of 1943 when there were 195. at that time about 60 fer but had to slup on the floor, on forms on tables and on the doors had consulte poors and more will and slight slope in the ground. The woult was that as the top ends of the buts had their places about 18 inches below the grand level the moisture came through in quantity during the met months. In each domitory in the buts there much eight 25 watt light bulbstonlich, by brubery and serounging, we substituted Stronger ones. We had three ten bunks mith faliasees full of straw for The mater suffer was mattressis. nearly foor. There being only one take for each but and mater available for about three hours to day. Het showers muc available to no energy tens to eighteen days. The latines much situated antide the buts each facing accomedation for forty, for the use of one thousand men. The eisterns mad often them not mould not funch, and the place seen became dividedly funsanitary. The International had cross conflained to the germans on each of their wests, but nothing much was ever done.

There must large united heating of the buts, there to each section, four because of the fuel supply they never not effectual. I would need to supply they never would manally be sufficient for one day. We sufflemented the full suffly by history, secranging and using but men or had boards. To economise on full me built emall stones and miniature forges. Inventionally the black out.

Some of the PO.W. working in the lookshouse secondard to give us warmith. Some of the PO.W. working in the lookshouse secondard to allow in first with our other little bits from the buds are usually managed to allow in first the coldect time of the day and year.

The lookshouse supplied is with

Suide Soup cooked Potatoes and on oceasions hot water. The remainder of the cooking we aid on our self

manufactured stones.

uereation was that between the huts, and naturally this meant that windows were occas ionally booken. The guinans would never replace broken windows so me had to stop the gap as but we could mith and cross bloces.

The food rations reserved from the Altaning Peners were very magne consorting in the main of bread, petalous, and

meat say (every ten weeks) The line force compound was in the model of a large dering camp, which was a base for marking farties. No aircream were allowed and on these farties or for near atomal marker. Some and autosthate for lumy forcemmed entres with the day of eventual escape of to more the Black Market and so lesse the food pithalton a little.