

Lt. Kenney, 11th Sq., 60th Gp. co-pilot 53A glider, 13 South Staffords (3 drowned, 2 caught inside, Kenney pulled 3 out, one couldn't hold on to wing).

Had British Mae Wests.

Last glider in 60th formation.

Approach probably on course, but couldn't recognize any features. Saw flak ahead and to left, searchlights, one on point to left, 2 ahead, one on point to right (di Porco). Tug said "You see those fireworks ahead".

When he recognized Cape di Porco, climbed on a 270° turn, apparently shore heard us as they turned on searchlights, then headed 300° could only see hills ahead, at 2000. He said "I believe you are in close enough". Could not see shore, only mountains inshore. We out, kept 300°, glided 80-100 m.p.h., almost stalled to get more distance, as we came in light flashed beneath us, then flashed around, we saw the beach and saw we were too low and would have to go in the water. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from shore. British pilot landed her, (Sgt. Lansdale) tail first. Good job. My head was under water before I could unfasten my belt. I had knocked out my window with my gun. Men had instructions before take-off. Advised of water landing as we came down. She went down and rested on wings. I was first out. Pilot knocked out his window. Majority of men came out thru two windows. Emergency door on right had been knocked out before. I went in the door and pulled out 3.

We got on top. S/L picked us up. Fired at us, tracers in one direction. Drifted East, then South. At 2 AM Syracuse was bombed. Saw one plane shot down off di Porco.

1215 moon set. 2 destroyers came in behind point and stayed there. We could not attract them. 0300 another came in and told us to pipe down. At 4 a landing craft that had put Commandos on di Porco came by and picked us up, 12 in all.

Took us to the Prince Albert LCA boat. She went inshore at dawn. Lt. Dunham saw 15 - 20 gliders in water or crashed on beach. Yesterday P.M. on another boat 10 miles out we passed through the parts of another glider.

Quite a wind. Saw another glider ahead of us in the searchlight gliding in.

Prince Albert picked up 28 and 53A. Then the Winchester Castle (took us 30 to Malta).

67 British and 30 of us on the Winchester. Another officer came on board, said he picked up 40.

Gillis
S/Sgt./on 103 fro

R E S T R I C T E D

WJG

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S/Sgt. Gillis on 103 was picked up, thought the only one, his glider broke in two. Said all five in his echelon (101, 101A, 102, 103, 104) were out 5 miles off shore.

#19, S/Sgt. Turnbull, Sgt. Saunders (6 men, 1 officer) were on the Winchester, going to Alexandria.

Irvin C. Kivney Jr.

RIER/NATIONAL WWII GLIDER PILOTS/SWM