

Charles E McDonald
Kenneth Chisholm
Edwin (Nick) Carter
Geoffrey Patrick Hickman

FROM:

<http://www.conscript-heroes.com/escapelines/EEIE-Articles/Art-16-Escapers-from-Germany.htm>

Sgt Charles E McDonald (1316) was pilot of Spitfire R7279 on an escort mission to France when he was shot down 21 August 1941. McDonald baled out and landed a few miles north-west of Lille and was captured that afternoon by a German patrol. After a month in hospital at Lille where his burns were treated, he was taken to Dulag Luft at Oberursel. On 24 September McDonald was sent to Stalag Luft VIII B (Lamsdorf). In April 1942, McDonald and most of the other RAF prisoners were moved to Stalag Luft III (Sagan). McDonald soon decided that escaping from Sagan was next to impossible and so volunteered to be returned to Lamsdorf in July 1942. Consultation with RSM Sherriff resulted in McDonald being sent on a working party to Gleiwitz as that seemed to be the most promising place to escape from. McDonald duly escaped from his hut at Gleiwitz on the night of 11/12 August 1942, along with P/O Kenneth Chisholm (see below) Sgt **Geoffrey Patrick Hickman** RAFVR and Edwin Carter, a Polish Jew known as Nick who was serving with the British Army.

FROM:

<http://legionmagazine.com/en/index.php/2007/09/tales-of-flight/>

Sergeant Charles E. McDonald of Shreveport, La., was another American volunteer in the RCAF. He earned his pilots wings in April 1941 and promptly went overseas. On Aug. 21, 1941, flying a Spitfire of No. 403 Squadron, he was shot down and captured near Lille, France. After medical treatment and detention in a holding camp he was sent to Stalag VIII B, arriving about Sept. 24, 1941.

Moved to Stalag Luft III in Sagan, McDonald concluded that he could never break out of that camp. He let it be known that he would do manual work for the enemy and secured a transfer back to Lamsdorf, where he was assigned to caring for gardens that supplied Luftwaffe messes. On Aug. 23, 1942, McDonald and three other prisoners climbed through a hole in the ceiling of their hut, reached a boiler room and unlocked it from the inside using a forged key. The perimeter fence itself was unlocked, and having evaded a guard they simply walked out and four days later were linked up with the Polish resistance. They were taken to Warsaw on Oct. 24, 1942, issued with identity cards and moved from location to location. McDonald was selected—along with two soldiers—to undertake an incredible odyssey that eventually led to an escape line to Gibraltar. He reached Liverpool on July 24, 1943, and that December was awarded the Military Medal.

FROM:

<http://www.conscript-heroes.com/escapelines/EEIE-Articles/Art-16-Escapers-from-Germany.htm>

P/O Keith B Chisholm (2245) was shot down on a fighter SWEEP on 12 October 1941 and baled out into the sea off Berck-sur-Mer. He was picked up by a German rescue boat and sent to St Omer. After time at Dulag Luft, he was sent to Stalag VIII B (Lamsdorf) at the end the month. In June 1942 Chisholm and Sgt Pilot Stewart exchanged identities with two soldiers and subsequently escaped from a working party Freudental, getting as far as Brno in Czechoslovakia before being recaptured. On his return to

Lamsdorf, Chisholm was sent to the hospital where he met Douglas Bader and F/Lt John Palmer and they devised a scheme whereby they would exchange identities with Army ORs and join a party working at Gleiwitz aerodrome and try to steal an aeroplane. They also included Edwin (Nick) Parker because of his knowledge of languages. They got as far as the aerodrome, where Bader worked as an orderly, but suspicions of Bader's escape led to all work parties being checked for his whereabouts and they were soon discovered. It was at Gleiwitz that Chisholm met McDonald .

The four men walked to Katowice where Nick was able to find them shelter on a farm until mid-September when they were taken into territory of the General Government of Poland. They then walked to Krakow, arriving 17 October, where they were sheltered for a week until L/Cpl Ronald Jeffery (1822) arrived to take them to Warsaw. They stayed at various addresses in Warsaw until 23 March 1943 when McDonald, along with British soldiers Pte John Grant and Dvr George Newton (see below) were taken by train to Paris where McDonald stayed for another month.

While McDonald stayed in Paris, Newton and Grant were taken to Lyons then Toulouse, Perpignan and the Pyrenees but were arrested the night of 1/2 April (along with F/O Stevenson) trying to cross the mountains. After several months at Fresnes, they were sent to Stalag VIIIIB in October 1943. Newton escaped from a work camp at Ragesfeld in April 1944 and went back to Warsaw. He was captured by Russian forces in January 1945 and finally liberated with other Allied prisoners at Kutno.

Chisholm stayed in Warsaw until March 1944 when he left for Brussels with Dutch Lt Kruimink. On 10 May 1944, Chisholm and Kruimink went to Paris where they stayed until the liberation. Sgt Hickman also stayed in Warsaw and is reported by Chisholm to have been arrested on 10 December 1943 and believed shot

The next mention I have for McDonald comes from Sgt Jack Luehrs USAAF (#40) who reports meeting McDonald at Etaples in Brittany. This was the Oaktree escape line and McDonald and Luehrs were with a group of evaders hoping to be taken to England by Royal Navy MGB. This scheme fell through and the party were taken back to Paris and then on to Pau. McDonald was with a group of evaders taken across the Pyrenees to Isaba at the beginning of June 1943.

FROM:

<http://www.conscript-heroes.com/MI9-03.html>

3314 1316 (G) Charles E McDonald RCAF 403 Sqn Spitfire R7279 FTR Aug 41 - Stalag VIIIIB Aug 42 - Oaktree - Pyrenees June 43

Oaktree refers to the escape line organised by Val Williams and Ray Labrosse, who were parachuted into France in March 1943.