

513

Accident No. 45-2-19-513

Date

Checked by Yom

3-30-45

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright

Field by _____

Notes _____

3949:10-44 FS

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

ACCIDENT No. 9343a
2-19-513

SECRET
By Authority
<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>

2-20-2357-0 **REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT**

(1) Place AAF STATION 106 (2) Date 19 FEBRUARY 1945 (3) Time 1120
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B17G (5) A. F. No. 42-31630 (6) Station AAF 130
 Organization: (7) 8th (8) 457th (9) 751st
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL BH

DUTY (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL No. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
P	MACK, RICHARD L.	P	0-811110	1st Lt	18	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
CP	SCHICK, DONALD H.	CP	0-829569	2nd Lt	18	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
MA	NIEKENGARDEN, JOHN S.	N	0-2064635	2nd Lt	18	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
RO	HELD, CHARLES (NMI)	-	17113745	T/Sgt	38	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
EW	HUNTER, RAYMOND V.	-	14160328	T/Sgt	38	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
LW	WHITMACK, EARL E.	-	39420218	S/Sgt	38	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE
RW	REUBLIN, ROBERT F.	-	6992764	S/Sgt	38	AC	8th	FATAL	NONE

(20) MACK, RICHARD L. (21) 0-811110 (22) 1st Lt (23) 18 (24) AC
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personal class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) 8th (26) 457th (27) 751st (28) AAF 130
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) 8th (30) 457th (31) 751st (32) AAF 130
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) PILOT (34) Aug 2, 43 Present rating (35) PILOT (36) Aug 2, 43 Instrument rating (37) Not Available
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS: (FORM 5, SENT WITH PERSONAL EFFECTS BEFORE INFORMATION WAS SUBMITTED: (2)
 (at the time of this accident)
 (38) This type B-17 OK - 439:55 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 18:50
 (39) This model B-17 G (43) Instrument time last 30 days
 (40) Last 90 days (44) Night time last 6 months
 (41) Total 884:10 (45) Night time last 30 days

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE props - fire

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>4</u>	COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
(47) Engine(s) <u>9 2 9</u>	COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
(48) Propeller(s) <u>9 2 9</u>	COMPLETE DESTRUCTION

(50) Weather at the time of accident VISIBILITY - 600 yds WIND - SSW at 10 MPH - QFE - 30.19
ceiling obscured

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident no YES
 (52) Cleared from AAF 130 (53) To AAF 128 (54) Kind of clearance Non-operational

(55) Pilot's mission Ferrying Aircraft to AAF Station 128.

(56) Nature of accident Aircraft hit obstruction while in flight. III C

(57) Cause of accident Not determined. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED.

TO **RESTRICTED**

(58) Form 5a not submitted. BY AUTHORITY OF [Signature]

Incl #1 **RESTRICTED** DATE 1-10-46 5181

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

(Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition)

NARRATIVE

At 1120 hours on 19 February 1945, Lt. MACK in A/C 42-31630 took off from AAF Station 130 to ferry A/C to AAF Station 128. The crash occurred some ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes later although some doubt exists as to the exact time. From the location of the crash it is indicated that the pilot was off course and had flown into an area of low visibility. The aircraft was located in a grove of trees making it appear that the pilot had flown into the trees. Since there were no survivors nor witnesses the exact cause of this accident cannot be determined.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The responsibility for the above accident is attributed seventy-five (75) percent to pilot error and twenty-five (25) percent to weather.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

NONE.

Rod L. Francis
ROD. L. FRANCIS,
Lt. Col.; Air Corps,
Accident Committee.

Wilbur D. Snow
WILBUR D. SNOW,
Major, Air Corps,
Accident Committee.



Signature

James A. Maguire
(Investigating Officer)
JAMES A. MAGUIRE,
Major, Air Corps,
Accident Officer.

Date _____

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION NO. 106
Office of the Flying Control Officer

R-B-1

19 Feb., 1945.

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF Station No. 106, APO No. 557, U.S. Army.

1. At approximately 1120 hrs, Maj. Aiken called in regards to an explosion near the 544th Sq. area. I immediately went to the 544th Sq. area, taking a ambulance and crash-tender with me.

2. Upon arrival I saw flames coming through the trees, which was later identified as a B-17. The aircraft hit an oak tree completely tearing off both elevators, the aircraft went approximately six hundred (600) yards where it crashed and burned.

3. The weather was very foggy, and no R/T communication was established with the aircraft. I had no knowledge of this aircraft being in the vicinity of the aerodrome.

J. W. Loter
J. W. LOTER,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Flying Control Officer

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STATION WEATHER OFFICE
WX. DET. AAF 130
APO 557, U. S. ARMY

T-C-1

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Accident Report.

TO : Aircraft Accident Officer, AAF Station 130.

1. B-17, serial No. 4231630, location of accident near P.X. site at aaf Station Grafton Underwood, 1148 hours 19 February 1945.

2. Departed AAF Station 130 at 1120 hours 19 February 1945. Destination AAF Station Deenethorpe. Route direct for a distance of about 14 miles.

3. General weak southwest circulation with variable amounts of fog and stratus cloud. Moist warm air overrunning colder ground coupled with a weak circulation gave rise to patchy fog in western portion of 1st Division and a fluctuating visibility.

4.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sky Coverage</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Visibility</u>
Glatton	1000	3/10 at 1200 ft.	Mist	1500 yards
"	1100	Nil	Mist	1700 yards
"	1200	1/10 at 3000 ft.	haze	3000 yards
Deenethorpe	1000	3/10 at 10,000 ft.	Mist	1200 yards
"	1100	1/10 at 2000 ft.	haze	2500 yards
"	1200	8/10 at 2000 ft.	Mist	2200 yards
Grafton	1000	3/10 at 18,000 ft.	Mist	2000 yards
Underwood	1100	3/10 at 1000 ft.	haze	3000 yards
	1200	Sky obscured with 700 yards visibility, fog growing thicker.		

Richard C. Marshall
RICHARD C. MARSHALL
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. Sta. Weather Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION NO. 106
OFFICE of the Fire Marshal

FIRE REPORT:

19 Feb 1945 A & B 1135 hours Site 2
DATE CREW TIME WINDS

B-17 Aircraft Heavy Bomber
OBJECT OF FIRE IDENTIFICATION

#135 crash truck, 2 Fords on crash tenders, 500-gal. Godiva 1010 trailer
EQUIPMENT

1135 hours 1135 hours 1136 hours
TIME (received) TIME (dispatched) TIME (arrived)

1135 hours 1147 hours 250-gal. pump, 500-gal pump
H.F.S. Called H.F.S. Arrived H.F.S. Equipment

3500 gals 270 gals None gts None lbs
Water Used Foam Used CFC Used CO2 Used

Airplane crashed,
CAUSE OF FIRE

1345 hrs 1405 hrs
TIME (Fire Out) TIME (Returned to Hut)

LIST OF DAMAGED MATERIAL:

On the reverse side give a complete but short summary of all other facts, such as responsible persons, exactly what fire fighting operations took place, assistance of HFC and any other pertinent information that in your opinion is necessary or assuring desirable.

10/31
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Was dispatched by phone. Pvt Lewis receiving call. Arrived to find airplane had crashed and was on fire in Site 2 just behind 1776th Water Pool. Put one Fordson to work on left side and one Fordson in front and in the meantime put 500 gal. Geciva to work from fire plug in Site 2, stretching the line through the field to the right. In the meantime the M.F.C. arrived and put two more foam lines to work on the front and rear of the fire. The two Fordsons were sent back to refill. One returned to scene of fire, the other going to the line for standby duty. The fire was now out except for magnesium burning in three engines. The medical personnel rescued two live and four dead bodies from the wreckage. We then picked up all equipment except the 500 gal. Geciva pump with Opl Brown, Pvt Rowan, and Pfc Cantella to stand by. Upon examining the wreckage, found that stream of water going through 544th living site was full of gasoline. I notified the Provost Marshal and he, in turn, had personnel of that unit refrain from smoking for a fifteen hour period.

James R. Hayde

JAMES R. HAYDE - 37516903

Sgt

Crew Chief, "A" Crew

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HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION NO. 106
Office of the Weather Officer

(T-H-2)

APO 557
19 Feb. 45

SUBJECT: Weather at 1130 hrs (GMT plus 1) 19 Feb 45.

TO : Commanding Officer, 384th Bomb Group, APO 557, U.S.A.
ATTENTION: Group Operations Officer.

1. The following Special Weather Observation was made at the weather station at AAF 106:

1128 hrs (GMT plus 1)

Sky obscured. Fog. Visibility 600 yds. Surface wind SSW 10 mph.
QFE: 30.19".

H. G. Horak
HENRY G. HORAK
Capt., A.C.
Staff Weather
Officer.

Qals!

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GAD-384/109-7 (19 Feb 45) (C/10-301-33430.8)



(GAD-384/109-6) (19 Feb 45) (C/10-301-33430.8)



GAD-384/109-5 (19 Feb 45) (C/10-301-33430.8)

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(GAD-384/109-3)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)



(GAD-384/109-9)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)



(GAD-384/109-8)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)



(GAD-384/109-3)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)



(GAD-384/109-9)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)



(GAD-384/109-8)(19 Feb. 45)(A/C 42-31630 B-17)