

Accident No. 44-4-21-504

Date _____

Checked by [Signature]

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

1225:9-43

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place: AAF Station 139 (2) Date: 21 April 1944 (3) Time: 1010
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model: B-17 (5) A. F. No.: 42-30091 (6) Station: AAF 139
Organization: (7) 8th AF (8) 100th (9) 349th (H)
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL 138

DUITY	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	STATUS OF PERSONNEL	TYPE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
P	RICHMOND, MYRON D	P	0-812311	2nd Lt.	01 18	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
CP	KENNEY, JOHN T.	P	0-817692	2nd Lt.	01 18	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
N	HORSTMANN, AUGUST H. JR.	N	0-743594	2nd Lt.	01 18	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
B	KRAGY, ROBERT L.	B	0-700107	2nd Lt.	01 18	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
R	GEORGE, WALTER H.	RO	39118875	S/Sgt.	22 38	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
E	ROBINSON, CORNELIUS W.	AE	14069630	S/Sgt.	22 38	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
BT	LEWIS, CHARLES C.	AAE	32845502	Sgt.	22 38	AE	8th AF	Dead	No
RW	JOHNSON, JOHN F.	ARO	32836327	Sgt.	22 38	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
LW	CUTLER, LESTER M.	AG	16085999	S/Sgt.	22 38	AC	8th AF	Dead	No
TG	LILLY, RAYMOND H.	AG	37558649	Sgt.	22 38	AC	8th AF	Dead	No

PILOT CHANGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) RICHMOND MYRON D. (21) 0-812311 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 18 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th AF (26) 100th (27) 349th (28) AAF 139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 8th AF (30) 100th (31) 349th (32) AAF 139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 10-1-43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 10-1-43 Instrument rating (37) unknown
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

First Pilot Hours: The flying time, ratings and dates thereof are unknown at this time because (at the time of this accident) this crew (newly arrived) did not bring their Form 5s with them to this station.
(38) This type: 178:45 (39) Instrument time last 6 months
(39) This model: 178:45 (40) Instrument time last 30 days
(40) Last 90 days: 92:05 (41) Night time last 6 months
(41) Total: 391:36 (42) Night time last 30 days

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)
(43) Aircraft	5			
(44) Engine(s)	5	3	1	5
(45) Propeller(s)	5	3	1	5

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED
RESTRICTED
BY AUTHORITY OF CG AAF
DATE 2-26-46
BY FBI

(46) Weather at the time of accident: Visibility three (3) miles. 6/10 to 8/10 at 20,000 feet.
(47) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident: No
(48) Cleared from: Local (49) To: Local (50) Kind of clearance: Contact
(51) Pilot's mission: Practice Formation.
(52) Nature of accident: Aircraft crashed while attempting to join the formation.
(53) Cause of accident: Aircraft banked up behind other aircraft at low altitude, turning the ship over in a steep bank and causing it to crash.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

1. Aircraft #42-30091 took off from Station #139 at 1010 hours on a practice mission. Lt. MYRON D. RICHMOND, pilot of the ship, was attempting to join his formation in the first turn after take-off. He apparently was closing on the formation at a rather sharp angle and consequently overshoot, and crossed through the slip-stream of the formation. He apparently banked the plane up at a sharp angle at the same time that he crossed the slip-stream, causing the plane to stall. Since he had attained only about seven hundred feet altitude, he did not have time to recover from the stall. The plane crashed and burned on the perimeter track at the Army Air Force Station #134.

2. All of the ten crew members on board were killed. The plane was completely destroyed. There was no injury sustained by anyone on the ground and no damage to private property.

(58) AAF Form #54 has not been submitted.

John B. Kidd

JOHN B. KILD
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President.

Summer H. Reeder

SUMNER H. REEDER
Capt., Air Corps,
Member.

Maurice F. Youngs

MAURICE F. YOUNGS
Capt., Air Corps,
Member.

Exhibits Included:

- "A" - Witness' Statement of Accident.
- "B" - Corroborating Authority.
- "C" - Photographs.



Signature _____ (Investigating Officer)

HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDREDETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #399

26 April 1944

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement Of Accident Of 21 April 1944.

TO : Aircraft Accident Board, Lt. Col. JOHN B. KIDD, President.

1. The accident happened while getting into formation after takeoff at between 400 and 500 feet indicated altitude. The plane was cutting off the element leader, over-shot, skidded under him and over into the right wing position. He was to fly the left wing. As he skidded under the element leader, I saw smoke coming out of #3 engine exhaust. Immediately after this, he went into a sharp bank of about 70 degrees or 80 degrees and went into the ground - almost nose first.

2. My opinion of what happened is that the pilot accidentally turned on the A.F.C.E. entirely instead of just the Master bar switch - not having it set up, or, in some way his controls were fouled. He didn't or would not have hit any prop wash at the position he was in.

William A. Ryan Jr.
WILLIAM A. RYAN JR.
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139
APO 550

Special Orders)
Number.....114)

26 April 1954

1. Extracted. (EM 28th Comp Sq DE Sheffield.)
2. Col John F Callahan, 11998317, 456th Sub-Depot (C1 1), is rel'd fr Sp Dy with Sta Armament & reasgd Sp Dy with Sta S-3.
3. S Sgt Jack E Marshall, 14162077, 350th Bomb Sq, is red to the gr of Private, for cause, eff this date. (Auth: AR 615-5.)
4. Pvt John C Riffle, 15070052, 350th Bomb Sq, is promoted to the gr of Staff Sergeant (Temp), eff this date. (Auth: AR 615-5.)
5. CAPT GEORGE D ALLEN, 0394310, 28th Sta Compl Sq, is aptd Ground Officers' Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT LOUIS (??) BUCHER, 0572741, rel'd.
6. 1ST LT JOHN R OLSON, 0561793, 418th Bomb Sq, is aptd G... 104th E Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0562013, rel'd.
7. 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0562013, 350th Bomb Sq, is aptd Station Mess Officer.
8. Par 2, SO 72, this Hq ca, aptg Aircraft Accident Committee, is rescinded.
9. In accordance with Par 1, Part 6, AAF Regulation No. 62-14, as modified by Section 3, VIII AF Memo 59-2, the following named officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

LT COL JOHN B KIDD	0598625	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT SUMNER H REEDER	0729903	349th Bomb Sq
CAPT MAURICE F YOUNGS	0442321	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT ALBERT J MIKKELSEN	0799430	349th Bomb Sq

10. P Sgt Paul A Vrabec, Jr., 15019354, 350th Bomb Sq, WP on TD o/a 1 May 54, for app seven (7) days, exclusive of travel, fr AAF Sta 139 to Bournemouth for the purpose of COCG, STRS.

While at TD Sta EM will be furn an Alws not to exceed \$2.00 per day or subs, as outlined in Cir 65 ETOUSA 13.

TONI TDN FD 91-5 P 412-02 A 0425-24. (Auth: Ltr Hq 8th AF, Subj: For Mon Alws at Rest Hqs, d' 22 Nov 53 and Ltr Hq ETOUSA 3 Nov 53.)

By order of Lt Col SEIBERT:

WICMAL:

Horace L. Varias, Jr.
HORACE L. VARIAS, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

HORACE L. VARIAS, JR.,
Capt in, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

CL

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360.33

1st Wrapper Ind. 14

E-N-4

Hq, Eighth Air Force, APO 634, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

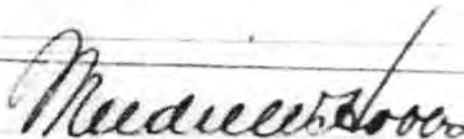
TO: Chief, Flying Safety, AAF, Winston Salem 1, N.C.

1. Transmitted herewith WDAAF Forms No. 14 and allied papers on the following aircraft accidents:

- a. 2nd Lt. Myron D. Richmond, B-17F number 42-30091.
- b. 1st Lt. Charles M. Elliott, B-24H number 42-94934.
- c. 2nd Lt. Forrest C. Havens, B-24H number 41-29418.
- d. (Ground Accident), B-17G number 42-39864.
- e. 2nd Lt. Ralph W. Degner, P-51B-15 number 42-106828.
- f. 2nd Lt. Donald J. Schaefer, B-17G number 42-31469.
- g. 1st Lt. Dixon I. Wands, B-17G number 42-39971.
- h. 2nd Lt. Walter J. Shea, P-38J-10-10 number 42-68031.
- i. Captain Carey H. Brown, Jr., P-51C-1 number 42-103293.
- j. 1st Lt. William P. O'Connell, P-38J-10-10 number 42-68025.
- k. 2nd Lt. Jack T. Webb, B-17G number 42-102405.
- l. 1st Lt. Clark H. Jensen, B-24H number 42-7610.

2. Concur.

For the Commanding General:



MEEDIE W HUBBS
Major, A.G.D.,
Ass't. Adjutant General

12 Incls:

As Above.

- 1 -

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
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From: CG, Strategic Air Forces in Europe
London, England

To: War Department

Ref: D 66987 24 April 1944

Doolittle to Arnold signed Speatz info AFAPC Winston Salem D 66987.

Dixon I Wanda pilot, First Lt 08030715 of 452nd Bomb Gp and 4 crew members fatal. Twenty second Apr 1455 hrs nr AAF STA Deophan Green B 17 G 42-39971 disintergrated in air 4 crew members prohtd safely. Two tenths cumulus at 3000 feet 10 tenths from 8 to 15 thousand ft multilayers of strataform cloud occluded front stable air. Operational mission complete loss. Also 21 Apr 1012 hrs AAF sta Eye Pilot Second Lt Myron D Richmond 0812311 and 9 of crew of 100th Bomb Gp fatal. On practice mission B 17 F 42-3009 caught in prop wash crashed into bank no prohts used. Vis 3 miles 7 to 8 tenths cloud at 2000 ft wind WSW 10 MPH. Total loss. Also 21 Apr 1944 hrs AAF Sta Rattlesden B 17 G 42-39864 exploded in Hardstand area while being prepared for combat mission complete loss 13 men killed of which 11 were ground personnel 447th Bomb Gp plus 1 crew member and other fatal fr 8 71st Chem Co. Aoft number 42-97287 in next Hardstand Area major damage from same explosion. Usual casualty rpts follow.

No Sig

This message has been relayed to Winston Salem per originator's request by WDCC.

ACTION: CG AAF
INFO : ASF, OPD, G-2

3M-III-18823 (25 APR 44) ejm

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(0001-418-817F)(CRASH)