

Accident No. 40-548-510

Date 6-28-44

Checked by [Signature]

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

1225:9-43

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
Station 139 AF 559
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Account No. 125

(1) Place AAF Station 139 (2) Date 19 May 1944 (3) Time 0347
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17C (5) A. F. No. 42-97560 (6) Station AAF 138
Organization: (7) 8th AF (8) 96th (9) 413th

PERSONNEL

INITIAL	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	VALESH, FRANK E.	P	0-742914	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
CP	BOOTH, JOHN E.	P	0-745546	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
N	FRANKLIN, ALBERT (NMI)	N	0-808028	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	8th AF	injured	no
B	DEHN, ARTHUR E.	B	0-687780	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
N	JOHNSON, JOHN R.	N	0-683829	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
E	MYTKE, JOHN (NMI)	AE	32498078	T/Sgt.	20	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
R	JORDON, ERNEST M.	RO	18063409	T/Sgt.	20	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
RW	BROYLES, HERSCHEL H.	AG	14158568	S/Sgt.	25	A.C.	8th AF	injured	no
LW	SZEKELY, STEVEN M.	AG	20315237	S/Sgt.	25	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
TG	CARBONE, FAUL J.	AG	32526655	S/Sgt.	25	A.C.	8th AF	injured	no
X	DOLFI, GENO (NMI)	AM	35024828	Sgt.	747	A.C.	8th AF	none	no
X	BYSICWICZ, PETER	AM	31045644	Sgt.	747	A.C.	8th AF	none	no

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) VALESH, FRANK E. (21) 0-742914 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 01 (24) A.C.
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Result)
Assigned (25) 8th (26) 100th (27) 351st (28) 139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 8th (30) 96th (31) 413th (32) 138
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 12-4-43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 12-4-43 Instrument rating (37) 18-11-43
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	<u>B-17</u>	<u>473:35</u>	(42) Instrument 6 months	<u>27:05</u>
(39) This model	<u>B-17C</u>	<u>276:05</u>	(43) Instrument 30 days	<u>5:30</u>
(40) Last 90 days	<u>B-17</u>	<u>149:20</u>	(44) Night 6 months	<u>10:30</u>
(41) Total		<u>618:10</u>	(45) Night time last 30 days	<u>1:30</u>

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS

SALVAGE

Part	1	2	3	4	5
Wing					
Fuselage					
Engine					
Landing gear					

(50) Weather at the time of accident No clouds, visibility 2500 yards.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No

(52) Cleared from 138 (53) To 139 (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission PFF ship

(56) Nature of accident Aircraft ran off the end of the runway.

(57) Cause of accident Pilot landed long on short runway.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

It is the opinion of the Accident Investigating Committee that Lt. FRANK E. VALESH did not use the best judgment in landing as he did. It is obvious that he landed long on a short runway. The pilot states that a portion of the outer circle and funnel lights were not operating. This, however, should not have interfered with a normal landing. According to the Flying Control sergeant, the runway lights were operating. According to the pilot, they were not: it is possible that the aircraft approached from an angle where the lights were not visible. In any case, the pilot should not have attempted to land if the runway lights were inoperative or if they were obscured.

Better judgment on the part of the pilot would have avoided this accident.

(58) AAF Form #54 will not be submitted.

John B. Kidd
JOHN B. KIDD.
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President.

Summer H. Reeder
SUMMER H. REEDER.
Major, Air Corps,
Member.

Maurice F. Youngs
MAURICE F. YOUNGS.
Captain, Air Corps,
Member.

Exhibits Included:

- "A" - Pilot's Statement
- "B" - Flying Control Sergeant's Statement
- "C" - Photographs
- "D" - Convening Authority
- "E" - Duty Flying Control Officer's Statement.

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

Date _____

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HEADQUARTERS
100TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #559

E - C - 4

19 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, One Hundredth Bombardment Group (H),
Army Air Forces, APO # 559.

1. I arrived over Station 139 at about 0300, and, after calling for landing instructions, began making circuit of the field. There were no perimeter lights on the last half of the downwind leg, base leg and no lead in lights or runway lights in evidence. I informed the tower of this. After making the second circuit, I made my turn into the field and lined up on the green light from caravan. Caravan was firing YY flares at this time. As I leveled out to land, caravan fired a flare which was partially blinding. I touched down in the first third of the field, but was unable to stop at end of runway.

Frank E. Valesh
1st Lt. A.C.
FRANK E. VALESH,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

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HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDREDTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 559

19 May 1944

SUBJECT: Accident Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 100th Bombardment Group (H), AAF

The tower phoned notifying me of PFF's in the circuit. I first noticed him on the down wind leg of the pattern and immediately fired a flare. The PFF continued his pattern and made another circuit and I, in the meantime kept firing flares to show him my position on runway "04". When the PFF entered the base leg for the second time, a green light was shown from the Aldis lamp and flares were fired continuously. I then noticed the ship over shoot the runway and the final flare was fired in the direction the runway ran, toward the NE. At this time the ship came in on the final approach heading for the caravan, then it banked to starboard and landed about the middle-half of the runway. At first I thought he was going to make another circuit, as he came high and a short approach required for such a short runway. The pilot was prewarned that the runway was 1400 yards long.

When I first looked for the plane I noticed the runway lights were on also the Totem Poles on the NE end of the runway.

Sgt. MYER MUSHLIN
28th Sta. Comp. Sqdn.
Flying Control A.F.C.

Sgt. Myer Mushlin

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FLYING CONTROL SECTION: STATION 139
APO #559

20 May 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident of B-17 #297560 H belonging to Station 138.

TO : Chairman, Aircraft Accident Committee, Station 139,
APO #559.

1. Concerning aircraft accident of 0347 hours 19 May 1944, in which B-17 #297560 H from Snetterton Heath with Lt. Valesh as pilot, overran our 04 runway while making a night landing and crashed 75 yards beyond upwind end of runway. While in circuit Lt. Valesh complained that our lighting system was faulty. He didn't line up with the runway on his first try and while going around again called for flares to be fired from the caravan. On his second attempt, his base leg was in close and when he finally lined up with the runway, he was high and quite far down the runway. He touched down about midway of the runway and went completely off the end, shearing the landing-gear in a ditch and going down on the belly and stopping.

2. Four of the crew were injured. 1st Lt. A. Franklin, copilot; injured a leg. Staff Sergeant H.H. Broyles injured his back. Staff Sergeant P.J. Carbone broke a rib and Sergeant A.M. Byswich had a small scratch on his face.

3. Because Engineers were working on our long runway (10/28) at the time of this accident, we had to land this aircraft on a short runway. In the evening Flying Control was informed by the Engineers that Runway 10/28 would be ready for early morning use, but at 0347 hours it was not ready, this necessitating a landing on our only serviceable runway. There was no wind at the time of the landing.

A section of our outer circle lights has been unserviceable for several days. Station electricians are remedying this fault.

The pilot was instructed over R/T that 04 runway is only 1400 yards long with extreme caution landing necessary.

The duty caravan sergeant verifies that the runway lights were operating while the plane was landing.

Donald F. Thurlow

DONALD F. THURLOW,
1st Lt., Air Corps
Duty Flying Control Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139

11/1/40

Special Orders)
Number.....114)

28 April 194

1. Extracted. (EM 28th Comp Sq DS Sheffield.)
2. Col John F Callahan, 11398317, 456th Sub-Depot (C1 1), is reld fr Sp Dy with Sta Armament & reassg'd 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, off this date. (Auth: AR 615-5.)
4. Sgt John C Riffle, 15070055, 350th Bomb Sq, is promoted to the gr of Staff Sergeant (Temp), off this date. (Auth: AR 615-5.)
5. CAPT GEORGE D ALLEN, 0324310, 28th Sta Compl Sq, is aptd Grouped Officers' Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT LO IS (M) WEEPER, 0572741, reld.
6. 1ST LT JOHN R OLSON, 0561793, 418th Bomb Sq, is aptd Consolidated EM Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0562013, reld.
7. 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0562013, 350th Bomb Sq, is aptd Station Mess Officer.
8. Par 2, SO 72, this Hq es, 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 60-2, the following named officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

1ST COL JOHN A KIDD	0526635	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT SUMNER H RENDER	0728903	349th Bomb Sq
CAPT MAURICE F YOUNG	0442321	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT ALBERT H MINNELSEN	0729430	349th Bomb Sq

10. T Sgt Paul A Vrabec, Jr., 15019344, 350th Bomb Sq, WP on TD c/a 1 May 43, for app seven (7) days, exclusive of travel, fr AAF Sta 139 to Bournemouth for the purpose of COCG. STEN.

While at TD Sta EM will be furn on also not to exceed \$2.00 per day for subs, as outlined in Cir 85 STOUA 43.

TONT TDN FD 91-5 P 47-12 A 0426-24. (Auth: Ltr Hq 8th AF, Subj: For Non Alms at Rest Bn, 14 Nov 43 and Ltr Hq STOUA 3 Nov 43.)

By order of Lt Col SEIBERT:

11/1/40

Horace L. Varian, Jr.
HORACE L. VARIAN, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

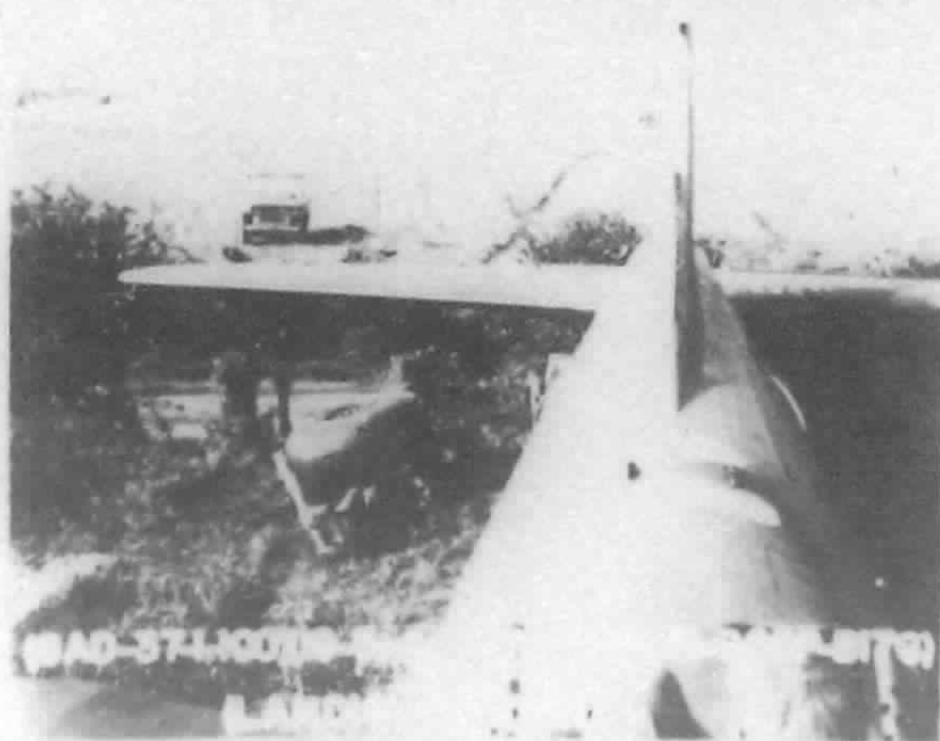
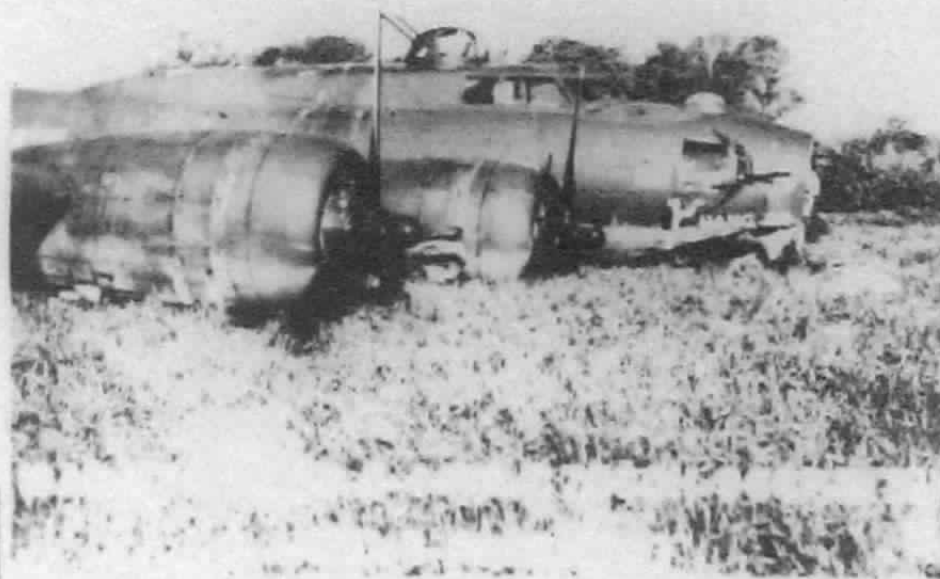
HORACE L. VARIAN, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

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WAD-3740018

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