

86 49584

FRONT

1975

CONFIDENTIAL

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Aircraft Number 15-97541 was landing at 1400 hours, the last signature, as this was after mission. While on the last run, at approximately 1400 hours, a fire was seen to develop within the cockpit and the pilot left the aircraft in a flying time.

The aircraft subsequently went out of control and crashed into a building in the suburbs of Baltimore.

Six men of the crew of this aircraft were killed. The other three crew members: Pilot, Co-pilot and Engineer were killed. The Pilot and his parachute but was thrown clear as it opened. (It is believed that his leg straps were not fastened). The co-pilot and engineer's bodies were found with the crashed aircraft.

None of the survivors was able to ascertain what caused the fire. The initial explosion which followed the original fire was believed to have been caused by the flames. As the aircraft was going down, apparently out of control, further explosions were observed and are believed to have been caused by the engine crash.

Responsibility for this accident cannot be placed.

Recommendations to prevent repetition: That oxygen cut off valve be kept closed until the actual need for oxygen exists.

William R. Thompson
WILLIAM R. THOMPSON
 Major, Air Corps
 President,
Edward E. Smith
EDWARD E. SMITH
 Major, Air Corps
 Member,
John L. Smith
JOHN L. SMITH
 Major, Air Corps
 Member.

RESEARCH DIVISION
 * - Research
 * - Engineering
 * - Flying Control Division's Report



Signature _____
 (Investigating Officer)

EXHIBIT 108

CONFIDENTIAL

**FLYING CONTROL ACTION: STATION 139
APO #999**

24 November 1944

**SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Concerning B-17 #42-97561 W of
the 350th Bombardment Squadron on 7 November 1944.**

**TO: 1 Chairman, Aircraft Accident Committee, Station
139, APO #999.**

1. At 1909 hours 7 November 1944, B-17 #009 B piloted by Captain Bendiger and Lt. Thompson of the 369th Squadron, called on Channel #8 VHF saying #61 W of the 350th Squadron piloted by Captain Clark and Lt. Dyott, Command and Pilot respectively, was on fire and had left the formation and had seen three men bail out near Felinstown. Third Division was immediately notified to contact the nearest airbase to render aid. The tower notified Third Division to have Air/Sea rescue started for the men who bailed out. They immediately replied Air/Sea rescue was on its way and working in the vicinity of accident.

2. At 1914 hours B-17 #01 L piloted by Lt. Michael of the 350th Squadron, landed and reported that he circled the aircraft until it crashed into a building in the suburbs of Felinstown and also reported seven flames came out of the aircraft before it crashed.

3. There were also (9) crew members in the aircraft and final reports ascertained that six (6) bailed out and three (3) were killed. The ones killed were as follows: Capt. STANLEY A. CLARK B-41760, Command Pilot; 1st Lt. JOHN F. TAYLOR B-762874, Pilot; and 1st Sgt DONALD A. GUSTAFSON 3W10777, Engineer.

4. Aircraft was totally demolished.

James E. Pender
James E. Pender,
1st Lt., Air Corps
Duty Flying Control
Officer.

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