

NAME OF PILOT

TYPE OF PLANE

ACCIDENT NUMBER

*Koons, Melvin L.**B-17G**45-3-14-522*

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

Accident No. 75-9-19-523

Date

Checked by 107

Analysed by _____

Copied for Wright

Field by _____

Notes _____

9/25/11 2:14 PM

RESTRICTED

Accident No.

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
AAF STATION 139
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place **AAF STATION #139**

(2) Date **14 March 1945**

(3) Time **1140**

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model **B-17G DO**

(5) A. F. No. **44-8632**

(6) Station **AAF #139**

Organization: (7) **8th AF, 3rd AD**

(8) **100th**

(9) **351st Bombardment**

(Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DUTY (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL NO. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	REPORT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
P	Kodas, Melvin L.	P	O-503283	1st Lt	18	AC	8th AF	No	No
P	Fletcher, Robert C.	P	O-828136	2nd Lt	18	AC	8th AF	No	No
CP	Baldwin, William E.	P	O-783669	2nd Lt	18	AC	8th AF	No	No
N	Buckley, John H.	N	T-134639	P/O	17	AC	8th AF	No	No
E	Wright, Kenneth E.	AE	20383070	Cpl.	20	AC	8th AF	No	No
R	Jones, Kermit E.	ROG	36808195	Cpl.	38	AC	8th AF	No	No
G	Davis, Leslie O.	AO	35471882	Cpl.	38	AC	8th AF	No	No
G	Goodwin, Randolph A.	AO	39855935	Sgt.	38	AC	8th AF	No	No
G	Mantopoli, Alfred G.	G	32953848	Cpl.	38	AC	8th AF	No	No
G	Barron, Edgen W.	G	42000553	Cpl.	38	AC	8th AF	No	No

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Kodas, Melvin L. (21) O-503283 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 18 (24) A.C.

Assigned (25) 8th AF, 3rd AD (26) 100th (27) 351st (28) AAF #139

Attached for flying (29) 8th AF, 3rd AD (30) 100th (31) 351st (32) AAF #139

Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 8-11-42 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 14-9-43 Instrument rating (37) 21-11-42

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(38) This type B-17 323:10 (42A) Link trainer time last 90 days 8:15
(39) This model B-17G 323:10 (42B) Link trainer time last 30 days 5:00
(40) Last 90 days All Types 222:00 (43) Instrument time last 6 months 18:15
(41) Total All Types 1105:30 (44) Instrument time last 30 days 7:30
(41A) Total Pilot Hours 1347:50 (45) Night time last 6 months 9:30
(45) Night time last 30 days 1:30

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	Right wing destroyed; left wing panel damaged; left bomb bay door buckled.
(47) Engine(s)	Salvage of A/C Category "E"
(48) Propeller(s)	

(50) Weather at the time of accident No clouds; visibility 2000 yards in haze; winds S.W. 5 MPH, temperature 55 degrees.

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

(52) Cleared from 139 (53) To 139 (54) Kind of clearance Non-operational

(55) Pilot's mission

(56) Nature of accident Taxiing accident.

(57) Cause of accident 100% Pilot error.

AAF Form #54 will not be submitted.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

On 14 March 1945, 1st Lt. Melvin L. Kotas was acting as instructor pilot in B-17G Aircraft #44-8632. Upon return from this flight, Lt. Kotas taxied this aircraft to the assigned hardstand from the co-pilots' seat.

Upon entering the hardstand, Lt Kotas steered to the right side so that the aircraft could be turned around to the left. This action, while proper, caused the right wing tip to be outside the hardstand with the right wheel tracking closest to the hardstand perimeter. When the turn to the left had been started, the right wing tip struck a tree which was approximately 15 feet from the hardstand perimeter. While this tree was unusually close to the hardstand, for safety, this did not relieve Lt. Kotas of his responsibility in taxiing, as a matter of information the tree has been cut down. The student pilot should have notified Lt. Kotas that the ground crew-man was signaling so that his signals could have been directed to Lt. Kotas. However this does not relieve Lt. Kotas of his responsibility.

The board is of the opinion that the accident is attributable to 100% Pilot Error.


JOHN E. WALLACE,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President.


DAVID K. LYSTER, JR.,
Lt. Col. Air Corps,
Member.


JOHN E. ROBINSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Member.

EXHIBITS INCLUDED:

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

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

Date 20 March 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDREDTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
APO#559

20 March 1945

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement of Aircraft Accident.

TO : President, Aircraft Accident Board, AAF Station 139.

1. On March 14, 1945, at approximately 1140 hours, I was taxiing my assigned aircraft, B-17G #44-8632 of the 351st Bomb Squadron, in dispersal area number one. I had just returned from a check flight having checked out a new pilot. I taxied my aircraft from the copilot's seat. The ground crew had apparently not expected the aircraft to return so soon, so had gone to lunch. Inasmuch as I was familiar with this dispersal area, I proceeded to taxi my plane. In turning the plane to the left, the right wing of the aircraft struck a tree standing approximately 15 feet away from the edge of the dispersal area. No injuries were sustained. The following damage was sustained to the aircraft: right outboard wing panel, right wing tip, right and left inboard wing panels at the trailing edge buckled against the fuselage, right inboard wing panel, leading edge, buckled against fuselage, left bomb bay door buckled.

2. I was turning my aircraft slowly and thought that I was using proper and sufficient precautions.

MELVIN L. KODAS,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Distruster Pilot.

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FLYING CONTROL SECTION: STATION #139
APO #599

17 March 1945

SUBJECT: Accident Report, re: B-17-G No. 48632-N of the 351st Bombardment Squadron (H).

TO : Chairman, Aircraft Accident Committee, Station #139, APO #599.

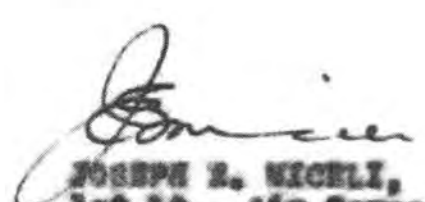
1. At 1140 hours, 14 March 1945 A/C B-17-G No. 48632-N piloted by Lt. FLINTCUM, 351st Bombardment Sq. (H) and Lt. KODAS, Instructor Pilot, 351st Bombardment Sq. (H) was involved in taxi accident while turning into Hardstand No. 1.

2. It is reported that the Instructor Pilot, Lt. KODAS, was taxiing the aircraft into Hardstand No. 1 from right-hand seat while ground crewman ignorant of this fact passed taxiing signals to pilot in left-hand seat. Right wing struck tree situated approximately 25 to 30 feet on right side of Hardstand No. 1. Considerable damage to wing was sustained as a result.

3. Flying Control was not notified of accident until 17 March 1945, hence more complete detail cannot be offered. Airfield was inspected for obstructions and debris on 14 March 1945 at 0920 hours.

4. Weather Conditions at time of accident:

- a. No low cloud.
- b. Visibility 2,000 yards.
- c. Wind: SW 6 mph.


JOSEPH E. NICHELI,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Duty Flying Control
Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139
APO 659

3 January 1945

Special Orders)
Number:.....3)

1. Pvt Edward P Butler, 34331208, 349th Bomb Sq. is promoted to the gr of Private-First-Class (Temp), eff this date. (AR 615-5).
2. Sgt Harvey J Lehman, 35550406, 351st Bomb Sq. is promoted to the gr of Staff Sergeant (Temp), eff this date. (Auth: AR 615-5.)
3. Par 7, SO#2, this Hq os, is revoked.
4. In accordance with Par 1, Part 6, AAF Regulation No. 62-14A, as modified by Section 3, 8th AF Memo 60-2 and USSTAF Reg No. 62-1, 4 Nov 44, the following named Officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

MAJ JOHN B WALLACE, 0388897, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
MAJ MARVIN S BOWMAN, 0474852, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
MAJ DAVID K Lyster, JR., 0393149, AC	350th Bomb Sq
MAJ GEORGE O EMERSON, 0382947, MC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
CAPT EDWARD D WOOTEN, 0792087, AC	418th Bomb Sq
CAPT JOHN S ROBINSON, 0428428, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
1ST LT ELLIS D PIKE, 0873991, AC	18th Wpn Det 139

5. VOCO, this Hq, 30 Dec '44, as follows: "PAC Par 2, sub-par 13, AR 35-1480, 10 Oct 42, the foll-named Officers, orgns indicated, having been found physically disqualified for all flying duty, are suspended fr dy involving flying, eff this date:

	ORGN:
P/O SALVATORE ANZALDI, T-124486, AC	351st Bomb Sq
2D LT ANTHONY B DeSILVIO, 02059008, AC	418th Bomb Sq"

is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record. The exigencies of the service precluded the issuance of written orders in advance. (AR 35-4890).

6. The foll named EM, 350th Bomb Sq, are promoted to the gr of Private-First-Class (Temp), eff this date: (AR 615-5).

Pvt Richard C Bissell, 38484713 Pvt Angelo G Prudakis, 39111794
Pvt Robert I McRae, 39027718

7. A sk lv of absence for a period of seven (7) days is granted P/O MARVIN BERG, T-4569, 350th Bomb Sq, effc/a 4 Jan '45, (AR 605-116).

8. 1ST LT WILLIAM H TITLEY, 0555630, AC, 351st Bomb Sq, WP fr AAF Sta 139 to London, RUAT Lt Col Ben Lyons 28 Grosvenor Sq, on TD for a period not to exceed two (2) days, for purpose of carrying out the instructions of the CO. CTRS. While in the London Area O will contact Billeting O, CBS, 5 North Audley St., who will provide govt billets. Govt messing facilities are available at Grosvenor House and at 44 Grosvenor Sq. TONT. ADM. FD 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Rail or GNV. (PAC Ltr Hq MTOUSA 24 May 44). O will report to Lt Col Lyons prior to 1100 hrs 5 Jan 45.

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SC#3, Hq AAF Sta 139, APO 559, U.S. Army, 3 January '45, Cont'd:

9. A sk lv of absence for a period of five (5) days is granted the following-named Officers, 349th Bomb Sq, eff o/a 4 Jan '45: (AR 605-115).

1ST LT RAYMOND L HEIRONIMUS, JR., 0817437, AC 2D LT GEORGE H. GEISE, 0723054, AC
1ST LT GLEN H. PEAVY, 0822794, AC F/O RAYMOND A. DECKER, T-125711, AC

10. The following-named EM, 456th Sub-Depot, WP GMV fr AAF Sta 139 o/a 4 Jan '45 to Blythe Bridge, on TD for a period not to exceed three (3) days, for purpose of COCO. CTRS.

Sgt Raymond H. Wilson, 17089096

Sgt James L. Bolan, 32455620

FD will pay EM for subs & qrs while traveling on dy & while at TD Sta in accordance with Cir 65 ETOUSA 44, as amended, TONT. TDN. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. (Auth: Ltr Hq ETOUSA 24 May 44).

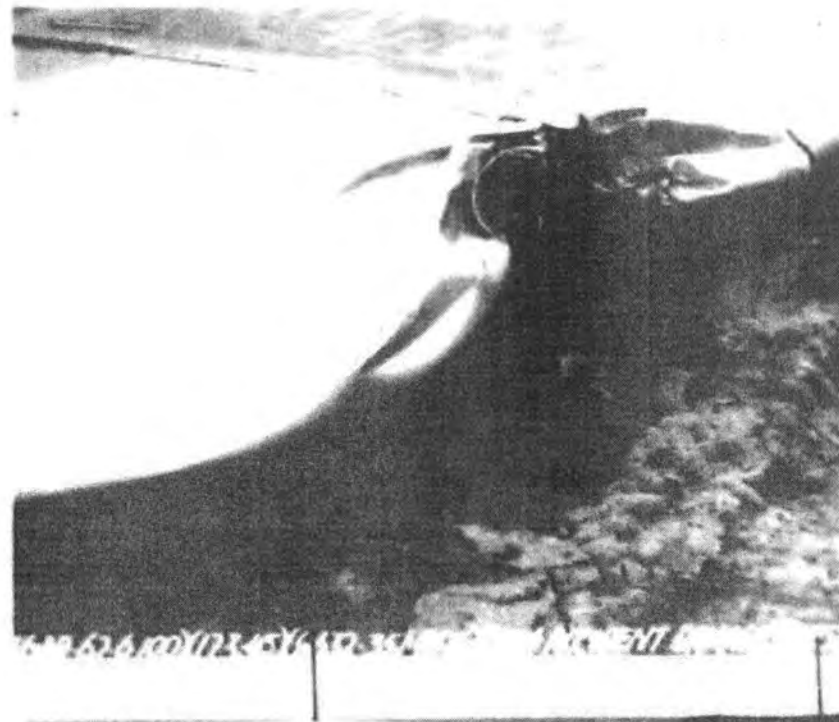
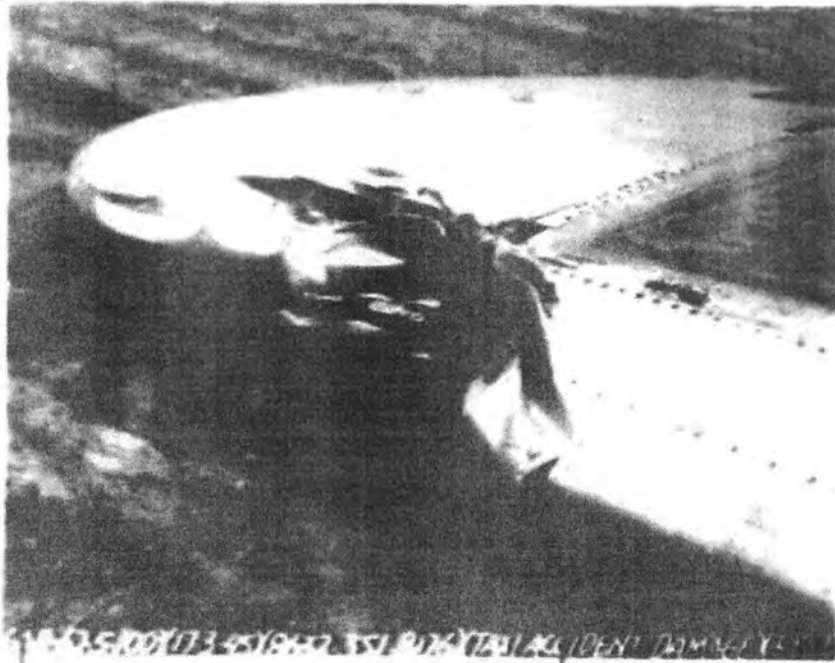
By order of Colonel JEFFREY:

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

OFFICIAL:

[Signature]
DALE Z. HOBBS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't Adjutant.

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(6AD 62 1 100X173 45X8632 351 B176XTAIL ACCIDENT DAMAGE XREST)

(6AD 62 2 100X173 45X8632 351 B176XTAIL ACCIDENT DAMAGE XREST)