

Accident No.

44-5-7-516

Date

Checked by \_\_\_\_\_

Analyzed by

R. J. [Signature]

Copied for Wright

Field by \_\_\_\_\_

Notes

~~See Report [Signature]~~

1225:9-43

**RESTRICTED**  
WAR DEPARTMENT

Accident No. SECRET

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES **44**

Auth: C.O. Ser. 139  
Initial **100**

**REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT**

Date **17-5-44**  
Time **0915**

(Grid Reference - G-9517)

(1) Place 4 miles NW Lowestoft (2) Date 7 May 1944 (3) Time 0915  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17D OAD (5) A. F. No. 42-34053 (6) Station AAF 139  
 Organization: (7) 8th AF (8) 100th (9) 349th  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

**PERSONNEL**

POST	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	ASSIGNED TO COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
P	WRIGHT, RALPH W.	P	0-753834	2nd Lt.	1A	AC	8th AF	Killed	No
CP	RAPER, JACK W.	P	0-815966	2nd Lt.	1A	AC	8th AF	Killed	No
N	CURRAN, RICHARD (NMI)	N	0-703985	2nd Lt.	1A	AC	8th AF	Killed	No
B	HERRMANN, CARL A.	B	0-756879	2nd Lt.	1A	AC	8th AF	Killed	No
R	MONTONDO, ROBERT J.	RO	13095333	T/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	LMA	Yes
TTO	NADSEN, ALDEN P.	AG	39909186	S/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	LMA	Yes
BT	PONTIUS, JOHN A.	AG	36559569	S/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	LMA	Yes
RW	MOORE, RANDOLPH C.	G	34211048	S/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	Killed	No
LF	BRIDGES, ALFRED T.	BG	35679399	T/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	LMA	Yes
TG	WILLBURN, JACK S.	AG	39293763	S/Sgt	2B	AC	8th AF	Home	YES

**PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT**

(20) WRIGHT, RALPH W (21) 0-753834 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 1A (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)  
 Assigned for flying (29) 8th AF (30) 100th (31) 349th (32) AAF 139  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 30/8/43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 30/8/43 Instrument rating (37) 27/10/43  
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

**First Pilot Hours:**

(at the time of this accident)  
 (38) This type 281:45 (42) Instrument time last 6 months  
 (39) This model 161:35 (43) Instrument time last 30 days  
 (40) Last 90 days 677:40 (44) Night time last 6 months  
 (41) Total (45) Night time last 30 days

**AIRCRAFT DAMAGE**

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	<b>DEMOLISHED</b>
(47) Engine(s)	<b>CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED.</b> <b>RESTRICTED</b>
(48) Propeller(s)	

(50) Weather at the time of accident C.A.V.U.  
 (51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
 (52) Cleared from 139 (53) To 139 (54) Kind of clearance Operational  
 (55) Pilot's mission Combat

(56) Nature of accident Fire broke out in the cockpit at altitude, causing the aircraft to go out of control and crash.  
 (57) Cause of accident Fire in cockpit, from either oxygen or Klars or combination of both.

**RESTRICTED**

**SÉCRET**  
DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

According to the engineer the ship was at about 20,000 feet when a fire started in the flare box. What caused the flares to ignite is not known. The engineer fought the fire until it was impossible to stay in the cockpit; he then handed the pilot his parachute and headed into the bomb-bay when an explosion in the cockpit knocked him into the radio room. He assumed that the oxygen system had exploded. The engineer was the last of the five men, who chuted out, to leave the aircraft. The plane was a total wreck after hitting the ground.

In order to prevent a repetition of this accident a metal container is being designed to be installed in all aircraft to hold essential Very pistol flares.

(58) An AAF Form #54 is being submitted.

*John B. Kidd*

**JOHN B. KIDD**  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
President.

*Summer H. Reiser*

**SUMMER H. REISER**  
Major, Air Corps,  
Member.

*Maurice F. Youngs*

**MAURICE F. YOUNGS**  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Member.

**Exhibits Included:**

- "A" - Convening Authority
- "B" - Photographs



Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SÉCRET**

STATION ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE STATION NO. 139  
10 150

20 April 1954

Special Orders )  
Number.....111 )

1. Extracted. (EM 28th Comp Sq DS Sheffield.)
2. Col John F Callahan, 11898217, 496th Sub-Depot (C1 1), is reld 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, 15070053, 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 (L) JOHNER, 0572741, reld.
6. 1ST LT JOHN R OLSON, 0561793, 418th Bomb Sq, is aptd Consolidated Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0528013, reld.
7. 1ST LT FRANKLIN S SEIBERT, 0528013, 350th Bomb Sq, is aptd Station Mess Officer.
8. Par 2, SO 72, this Hq co, 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 62-2, 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	0598626	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT SUMNER H REEDER	0720203	349th Bomb Sq
CAPT MAURICE F YOUNGS	0442321	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT ALBERT H MIKKELSEN	0790480	349th Bomb Sq

10. T Sgt Paul A Vrabec, Jr., 15019394, 350th Bomb Sq, WP on TD o/a 1 May 54, for app seven (7) days, exclusive of travel, r AAF Sta 139 to Bournemouth for the purpose of COCG. STRS.

While at TD Sta EF will be furnished allowance not to exceed \$2.00 per day expenses, as outlined in Cir 65 STOUA 43.

TONT TDN FD 91-5 P 152-12 & 0425-24. (Auth: Ltr Hq 8th AF, Subj: For Non Alms at Rest Homes, 43 22 Nov 53 and Ltr Hq STOUA 3 Nov 43.)

By order of Lt Col BEWERT:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

**CONFIDENTIAL**

360.33

1st Wrapper Ind.

E-N-2

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

26 MAY 1944

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

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

- a. 2nd Lt. Ralph W. Wright, B-17G number 42-38053.
- b. 1st Lt. Forrest M. Musgrave, B-24H number 41-28795.

2. Concur.

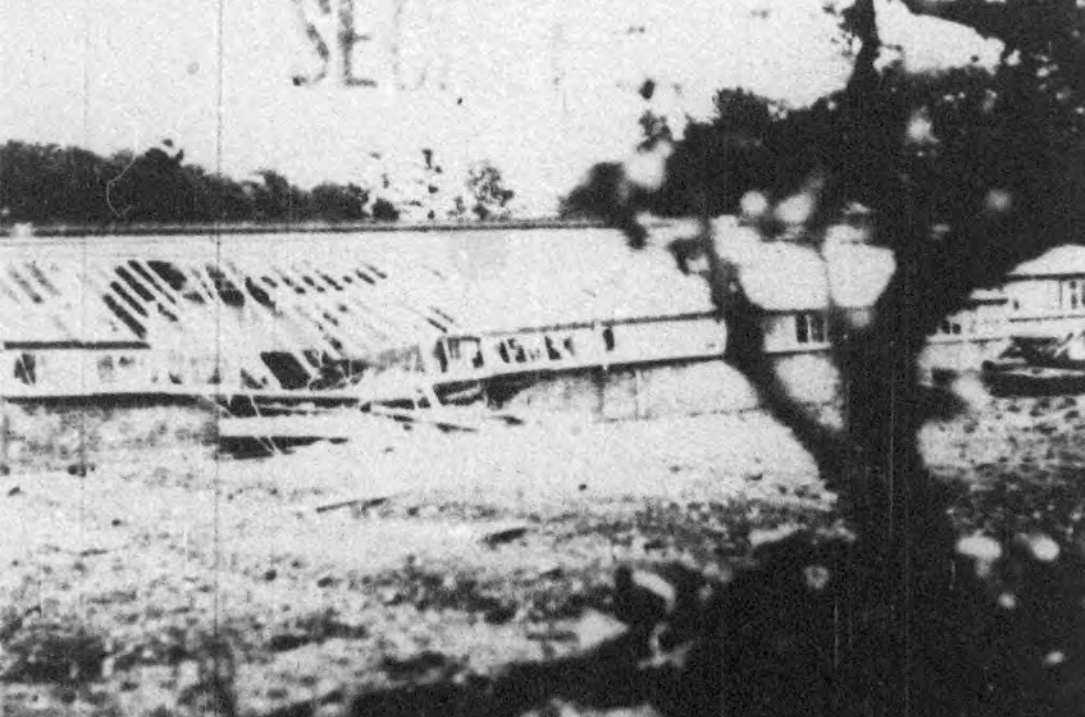
For the Commanding General:

*Meedie W. Hobbs*  
MEEDIE W. HOBBS.  
Major, A.G.D.,  
Asst Adjutant General.

2 Incls:  
As above.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SECRET



(RAD-33-6-1001-4)8053-349-8176)CRAS

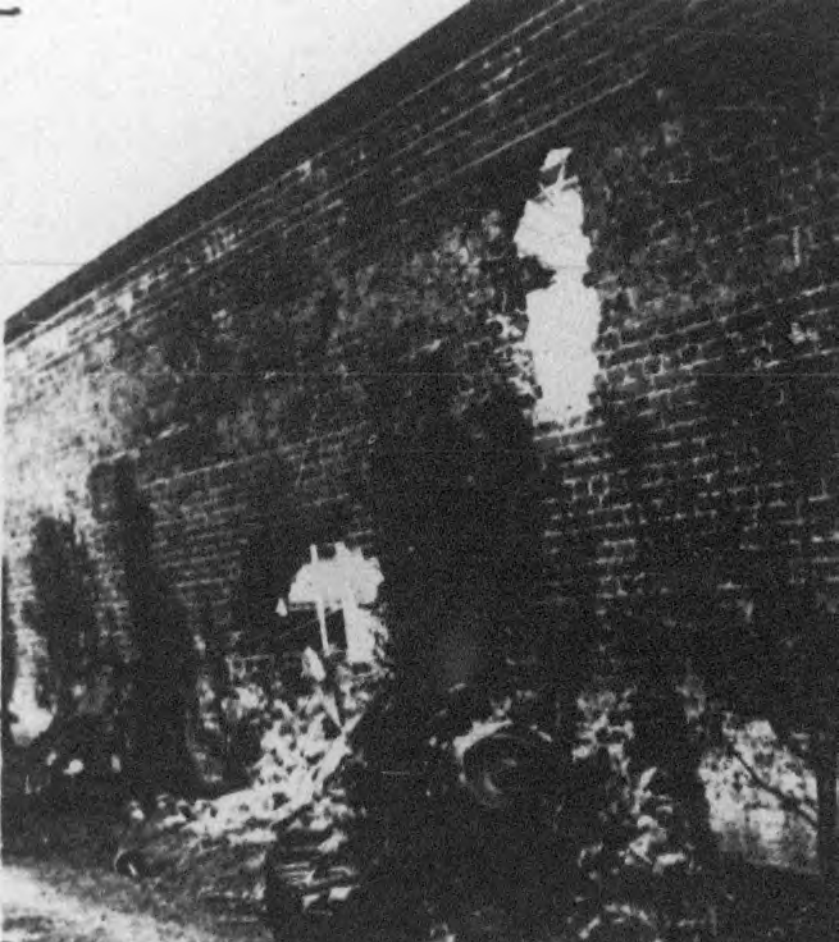


(GAD-33-2-100175-4478053-349-B178)(CRASH)



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