

Pilot's Name

Morton, Robert F. W.

01 Nature Group Collision in full flight

02 Specific Nature Collision with other aircraft

03 Underlying Nature Pilot did not insure clear path

04 Cause Group Pilot Judgment

05 Specific Cause Lack of specialized equipment

06 Underlying Cause General lack of alertness

Cause Group

Specific Cause

Underlying Cause

2nd Place

Zero cause

Accident No. 44-9-4-8

Date

Checked by

B. Smith

9-17-43

Analyzed by

MMR

9-17-43

Copied for Wright

Field by

Notes

## WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

## REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

ACCIDENT NO. 2 Plane  
Radio  
44-9-4-81

(1) Place B 1/2 Mi. South of Vinton, La. (2) Date 4 September 1943 (3) Time 0830 GMT  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-20G-10 (5) A. F. No. 40-54044 (6) Station AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
 Organization: (7) 3rd Bomber Command (8) 416th (9) 671st (10) 030  
3rd AF (Group) (Branch) (Station)

PERSONNEL

| DUTY | NAME<br>(Last name first) | RATING | SERIAL NO. | RANK    | PERSONNEL CLASS | BRANCH | AIR FORCE OR COMMAND | RESULT TO PERSONNEL | USE OF PARACHUTE |
|------|---------------------------|--------|------------|---------|-----------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| (10) | (11)                      | (12)   | (13)       | (14)    | (15)            | (16)   | (17)                 | (18)                | (19)             |
| P    | Morton, Robert W.         | P      | 0-806309   | 2nd Lt. | 1               | AC     | 3rd AF               | Fatal               | None             |



## PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Morton, Robert W. (21) 0-806309 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 18 (24) AC  
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)  
 Assigned (25) 3rd Bomber Command (26) 416th (27) 671st (28) AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Attached for flying (29) 3rd Air Force (30) 416th (31) 671st (32) AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 30 Jun 43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 30 Jun 43 Instrument rating (37) None  
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

## FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

|                   |       |                                    |      |
|-------------------|-------|------------------------------------|------|
| (38) This type    | 63.0  | (42) Instrument time last 6 months | 14.2 |
| (39) This model   | 36.4  | (43) Instrument time last 30 days  | 11.2 |
| (40) Last 90 days | 94.4  | (44) Night time last 6 months      | 18.2 |
| (41) Total        | 330.9 | (45) Night time last 30 days       | 6.0  |

## AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

| DAMAGE                              | (49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (46) Aircraft <u>W</u> <u>5</u>     | Complete airplane to survey. |
| (47) Engine(s) <u>W</u> <u>5</u>    |                              |
| (48) Propeller(s) <u>W</u> <u>5</u> |                              |

(50) Weather at the time of accident High scattered, low scattered, 1500 Ft. Pressure 149, Temperature 80°, Dew Point 77. NNW 2 mph., Altimeter 2996, KALF West

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
 (52) Cleared from Lake Charles, La. (53) To Lake Charles, La. (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Formation Flight

(56) Nature of accident Mid-air collision resulting in complete destruction of two airplanes and death of both pilots.

(57) Cause of accident Wing man cut tail off leader's airplane on re-assembling in formation.

58. Was Form #54 submitted? - NO

RESTRICTED



# DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Three airplanes on routine formation flight had been in string flying around through or between clouds. The third airplane, pilot by Lt. Horace F. Pair, became lost from the other two airplanes, so he pulled to approximately 4000 Ft., waited around for a while, and saw Lt. Burke, in the lead airplane, come either out of or from around a cloud, signalling for re-assembly of the formation. Lt. Pair flew over, and while in #3 position, and about 400 Ft. behind and slightly above Lt. Burke, both being in a gently turn to the left., saw Lt. Morton come in suddenly and unexpectedly from the left and cut the tail off Lt. Burke's airplane.

## CONCLUSION:

1. It is the opinion of the committee that the accident was caused by pilot error in judgment while joining a formation.

## RECOMMENDATION:

1. That pilots be cautioned to use more care in joining or flying formations.

*Edwin P. Archibald*

EDWIN P. ARCHIBALD  
Major, Air Corps  
Member, Acc. Committee

*Walter L. Pursley*

WALTER L. PURSLEY  
Major, Air Corps  
Member, Acc. Committee

*Sidney A. Price*

SIDNEY A. PRICE  
Major, Air Corps  
President, Acc. Committee

Date 8 September 1943

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

Radio 2 Plane  
44-9-48  
4

(1) Place 8 1/2 Mi. South of Vinton, La. (2) Date 4 September 1943 (3) Time 0830 CWT  
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-20B-5 (5) A. F. No. 42-53785 (6) Station AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
Organization: (7) 3rd Bomber Comd. (8) 416th (9) 671st  
(Squadron) 8860

PERSONNEL

| DUTY | NAME<br>(Last name first) | RATING | SERIAL NO. | RANK    | PERSONNEL CLASS | BRANCH | AIR FORCE OR COMMAND | RESULT TO PERSONNEL | USE OF PARACHUTE |
|------|---------------------------|--------|------------|---------|-----------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| (10) | (11)                      | (12)   | (13)       | (14)    | (15)            | (16)   | (17)                 | (18)                | (19)             |
| P    | Burke, Walter J. Jr.      | P      | 0-800465   | 2nd Lt. | 01              | AC     | 3rd AF               | Fatal               | Yes              |



(20) Burke, Walter J. Jr. (21) 0-800465 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 01 (24) AC  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)  
Assigned (25) 3rd Bomber Command (26) 416th (27) 671st (28) AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Attached for flying (29) 3rd Air Force (30) 416th (31) 671st (32) AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Original rating (33) P (34) 16 Mar 43 Present rating (35) P (36) 16 Mar 43 Instrument rating (37) 18 Aug 43  
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

|                   |              |                                    |             |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| (38) This type    | <u>128.1</u> | (42) Instrument time last 6 months | <u>15.9</u> |
| (39) This model   | <u>81.5</u>  | (43) Instrument time last 30 days  | <u>5.1</u>  |
| (40) Last 90 days | <u>136.5</u> | (44) Night time last 6 months      | <u>36.1</u> |
| (41) Total        | <u>404.4</u> | (45) Night time last 30 days       | <u>6.0</u>  |

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

| DAMAGE                                       | (46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS   |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (46) Aircraft <u>W</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>     | Complete airplane to survey. |
| (47) Engine(s) <u>W</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>    |                              |
| (48) Propeller(s) <u>W</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> |                              |

(50) Weather at the time of accident High scattered, low scattered, 1500 Ft. Pressure 149, Temperature 80°, Dew Point 77. NNW 2 mph., Altimeter 2996, KALF West

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
(52) Cleared from Lake Charles, La. (53) To Lake Charles, La. (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Formation Flight. 75 8860

(56) Nature of accident Mid-air collision resulting in complete destruction of two airplanes and death of both pilots.

(57) Cause of accident Wing man cut tail off leader's airplane on re-assembling in formation.

58. Was Form #54 submitted? - NO

RESTRICTED

# DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Three A-20G type airplanes were on routine formation flight. The leader signalled for echelon to the left and then lead them around between clouds, losing the last man in the echelon, who pulled up to approximately 4000 Ft. He later located the leader flying at a slightly lower level, coming out from between some clouds, and who was signalling for re-assembly of the formation. This man who was originally #2 in the formation flew over to join the leader, who started a turn to the left. He also turned to the left and when he was approximately 400 Ft. to the rear and slightly above the leader, suddenly he saw the third airplane in the flight fly swiftly in from the left and cut the tail off the leader's airplane, exactly how he doesn't know, for it happened too suddenly. The airplane that did this veered off to the right, and this witness did not see it again. However, he states that the leader's airplane tumbled end over end once or twice, then went on down. He doesn't know exactly how, though witnesses stated it was spinning. This witness followed the leader's airplane down, saw the pilot bail out, flew closely after he hit the ground, but seeing no sign of life, flew part way back to the field, and reported the accident.

Statements of witnesses on the ground verify the above sequence of events.

## CONCLUSION:

1. It is the opinion of the committee that the accident was the result of pilot error in joining the formation.

## RECOMMENDATION:

1. Instruction to pilots to be more careful in joining formations.

*Edwin P. Archibald*

EDWIN P. ARCHIBALD

Major, Air Corps

Member, Acc. Committee

*Walter L. Pursley*

WALTER L. PURSLEY

Major, Air Corps

Member, Acc. Committee

*Sidney A. Price*

SIDNEY A. PRICE

Major, Air Corps

President, Acc. Committee

Date 8 September 1943



9-4-43

DATE

Lake Charles, La.

STATION

56th Bomb Wing (L)

3rd AF III BC

✓ 416th Bomb (L)

GROUP NO. AND TYPE

A-20G-10

AIRCRAFT MODEL

Cpl. Nanney, L.E.

CREW CHIEF OR AERIAL ENGINEER

✓ 671st Bomb (L)

SQUADRON NO. AND TYPE

42-54044

AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO.

| PERS.<br>CLASS | — PRINT PLAINLY —<br>NAME — RANK — ORGANIZATION    | USE<br>AS<br>DIRECTED<br>LOCALLY | ALWAYS ENTER DUTY SYMBOLS WHEN APPLI-<br>CABLE. ENTER N - NIGHT OR I - INSTRUMENT.<br>ENTER TIME FLOWN THEREUNDER |        |      |        |      |        |          | FLIGHT DATA        |                       |  |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                |                                                    |                                  | DUTY                                                                                                              | N OR I | DUTY | N OR I | DUTY | N OR I | DUTY     | N OR I             | TERMINALS AND MISSION |  |
| 1              | 2                                                  | 3                                | 4                                                                                                                 | 5      | 6    | 7      | 8    | 9      |          |                    |                       |  |
| 18             | 671st LCAAF<br>MORTON, Robert W., 2nd Lt., 0806309 | 22                               | P                                                                                                                 | 0 : 30 | :    | :      | :    | :      | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | Local    | 07 : 30            |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      | 08 : 00            |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION: | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | T        | 1                  | 0 : 30                |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION  | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION  | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION  | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION  | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | FROM:    |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | TO:      |                    |                       |  |
|                |                                                    |                                  |                                                                                                                   |        |      |        |      |        | MISSION  | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS |                       |  |

"CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY"

*Robert G. Castreicher*  
 ROBERT G. CASTREICHER,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Operations Officer.

 WAR DEPARTMENT  
 A. A. F.  
 FORM NO. 1  
 2-2-42

## FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS

 CHECKED:  
 LEGIBLE AND  
 CORRECT

☐  
 OPER.  
 CLERK

 TRANSCRIBED:  
 TOTAL FLIGHT  
 TIME ENTERED  
 ON FORM 1A

☐  
 CREW  
 CHIEF

 TOTAL  
 FLIGHT  
 TIME

:

9-4-43

DATE

Lake Charles, La.

STATION

416th Bomb (L)

GROUP NO. AND TYPE

A-20G-5

AIRCRAFT MODEL

S/Sgt. Brewer, A.L.

CREW CHIEF OR AERIAL ENGINEER

56th Bomb Wing (L)

3rd AF III BC

671st Bomb (L)

SQUADRON NO. AND TYPE

42-53785

AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO.

| #ERS.<br>CLASS | — PRINT PLAINLY —<br>NAME — RANK — ORGANIZATION   | USE<br>AS<br>DIRECTED<br>LOCALLY | ALWAYS ENTER DUTY SYMBOLS. WHEN APPLI-<br>CABLE ENTER N - NIGHT OR I - INSTRUMENT.<br>ENTER TIME FLOWN THEREUNDER |        |      |        | FLIGHT DATA |                |                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|                |                                                   |                                  | DUTY                                                                                                              | N OR I | DUTY | N OR I | DUTY        | N OR I         | TERMINALS AND MISSION |
| 1              | 2                                                 | 3                                | 4                                                                                                                 | 5      | 6    | 7      | 8           | 9              |                       |
| 01             | 671st LCAAF<br>BURKE, Walter J., 2nd Lt., 0800465 | 21                               | P                                                                                                                 |        |      |        |             | FROM:<br>Local | 07 : 30               |
|                |                                                   |                                  | 0 : 30                                                                                                            | :      | :    | :      | :           | TO:            | 08 : 00               |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | MISSION:       | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS    |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | T              | 1 0 : 30              |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | FROM:          | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | TO:            | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | MISSION:       | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS    |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | :              | :                     |
|                | "CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY"                           |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | FROM:          | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | TO:            | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | MISSION:       | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS    |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | :              | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | FROM:          | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | TO:            | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | MISSION:       | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS    |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | :              | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | FROM:          | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | TO:            | :                     |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | MISSION:       | NO. OF<br>LANDINGS    |
|                |                                                   |                                  | :                                                                                                                 | :      | :    | :      | :           | :              | :                     |

*Robert G. Oestreicher*  
 ROBERT G. OESTREICHER,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Operations Officer.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 A. A. F.  
 FORM NO. 1  
 2-2-42

FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS

CHECKED:  
 LEGIBLE AND  
 CORRECT

☐ OPER.  
 CLERK

TRANSCRIBED:  
 TOTAL FLIGHT  
 TIME ENTERED  
 ON FORM 1A

☐ CREW  
 CHIEF

TOTAL  
 FLIGHT  
 TIME



# FLIGHT REPORT - ENGINEERING

RESTRICTED

## INSPECTION STATUS

|           | DATE OF OR HOURS DUE | INSPECTED TODAY |              |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|           |                      | BY              | STATION      |
| PREFLIGHT | 24-43                | R               | LAKE CHARLES |
| DAILY     | 7-43                 |                 | LAKE CHARLES |
| 25 HOURS  | 230:0                |                 |              |
| 50 HOURS  | 231:5                |                 |              |
| 100 HOURS | 281:5                |                 |              |

## SERVICING AT STATION OF TAKE-OFF (CHECK IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TAKE-OFF)

| SERVICE | FUEL<br>(GALLONS) |             | OIL<br>(QUARTS) |             |               |             |               |             |               |             | RADIATOR<br>CHECKED |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
|         | SERV-<br>ICED     | IN<br>TANKS | NO. 1           |             | NO. 2         |             | NO. 3         |             | NO. 4         |             |                     |
|         |                   |             | SERV-<br>ICED   | IN<br>TANKS | SERV-<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS | SERV-<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS | SERV-<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS |                     |
| 1ST     | -                 | 400         | -               | 9.2         | -             | 9.2         |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 2ND     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 3RD     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 4TH     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 5TH     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |

## INSPECTION OF AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

| EQUIPMENT      | SYMBOL | INSPECTED BY | STATION      |
|----------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| BOMBARDMENT    |        | Goesner      | LAKE CHARLES |
| GUNNERY        |        | Goesner      | LAKE CHARLES |
| CHEMICAL       |        |              |              |
| COMMUNICATIONS | C      | CONDINHO     | LAKE CHARLES |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC   |        |              |              |
| NAVIGATION     |        |              |              |

## STATUS TODAY

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|    |    |    |    |

EXPLANATION: Bombardment tanks not serviced; Oxygens not installed; T.O. 01-1-83403-1-28 new; Gyros not working properly; FREE AIR Temperature GAGE out; LAMP

LANDING LIGHTS NOT FULLY EXTENDED  
WHEN THE "STATUS TODAY" IS INDICATED BY A RED SYMBOL AND AN "EXCEPTIONAL RELEASE" HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED BY AN AUTHORIZED ENGINEERING OFFICER, THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL SIGN THIS RELEASE BEFORE FLIGHT.

RELEASED FOR FLIGHT

REMARKS: PILOTS AND MECHANICS - SEE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE FRONT COVER

## AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE TIME RECORD (ENTER IN HOURS AND MINUTES)

| ENGINE                  | NO. 1         | NO. 2  | NO. 3 | NO. 4 |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| HOURS TO DATE           | 34:30         | 215:35 |       |       |
| HOURS TODAY             |               |        |       |       |
| TOTAL                   |               |        |       |       |
| OIL CHANGE DUE          | E.C.          | E.C.   |       |       |
| CUMULATIVE CLEANING DUE | 48:55         | 230:0  |       |       |
|                         | HOURS TO DATE | 275:35 |       |       |
| AIRCRAFT                | HOURS TODAY   |        |       |       |
|                         | TOTAL         |        |       |       |

"I certify that this is a True Copy of the original Form 1A"

Victor Brussovansky  
VICTOR BRUSSOVANSKY,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Ass't Engineering Officer

RETURN THIS STUB TO:  
BUDGET OFFICE,  
AIR SERVICE COMMAND,  
PATTERSON FIELD,  
FAIRFIELD, OHIO

## ENGINE DATA

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) 43-10 7177    | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (2) 42-10 6892    | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (3)               | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (4)               | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| TOTAL FLIGHT TIME | :                 |

## AIRCRAFT DATA

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| AAE      | COMPONENT           |
| 420-6-10 | AIRCRAFT MODEL      |
| 42-54044 | AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO. |

## AIRCRAFT ORG. DATA

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 3rd Bomb. Grp.   | AIR FORCE           |
| 56789            | COMPONENT           |
| 416 Bomb. Grp.   | AIRCRAFT MODEL      |
| 671 Bomb. Grp.   | AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO. |
| LAKE CHARLES     | STATION             |
| COL. L. E. NANNY | PILOT               |
| 9-4-43           | DATE                |

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE



RETURN THIS STUB TO:

BUDGET OFFICE,

AIR SERVICE COMMAND,

PATTERSON FIELD,

FAIRFIELD, OHIO

9-4-43

DATE

LAKE CHARLES

STATION

Sgt. Brewer

CREW CHIEF OR AERIAL ENGINEER

AIRCRAFT ORG. DATA

3rd A.A.F.

AIR FORCE

3rd Bomb. Comm.

COMMAND, CORPS AREA OR DEPT.

56th Bomb. Wing.

416th Bomb. Group (H)

GROUP NO. AND TYPE

67th Bomb. Sqdn (H)

SQUADRON NO. AND TYPE

AIRCRAFT DATA

A.A.F.

COMPONENT

A-20G-5

AIRCRAFT MODEL

42-53785

AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO.

B-2600-23

ENGINE MODEL

ENGINE DATA

(1) 42-153949

ENGINE SERIAL NO.

(2) 42-153959

ENGINE SERIAL NO.

(3)

ENGINE SERIAL NO.

(4)

ENGINE SERIAL NO.

TOTAL  
FLIGHT  
TIME

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

# FLIGHT REPORT - ENGINEERING

## INSPECTION STATUS

|           | DATE OF OR HOURS DUE | INSPECTED TODAY |              |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|           |                      | BY              | STATION      |
| PREFLIGHT | 9-9-43               | B               | LAKE CHARLES |
| DAILY     | 9-9-43               | S               | LAKE CHARLES |
| 25 HOURS  | 155:10               |                 |              |
| 50 HOURS  | 180:10               |                 |              |
| 100 HOURS | 230:10               |                 |              |

## SERVICING AT STATION OF TAKE-OFF (CHECK IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TAKE-OFF)

| SERVICE | FUEL<br>(GALLONS) |             | OIL<br>(QUARTS) |             |               |             |               |             |               |             | RADIATOR<br>CHECKED |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
|         | SERV.<br>ICED     | IN<br>TANKS | NO. 1           |             | NO. 2         |             | NO. 3         |             | NO. 4         |             |                     |
|         |                   |             | SERV.<br>ICED   | IN<br>TANKS | SERV.<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS | SERV.<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS | SERV.<br>ICED | IN<br>TANKS |                     |
| 1ST     | -                 | 100         | -               | 92          | -             | 92          |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 2ND     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 3RD     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 4TH     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |
| 5TH     |                   |             |                 |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |                     |

## INSPECTION OF AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

| EQUIPMENT      | SYMBOL | INSPECTED BY | STATION      |
|----------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| BOMBARDMENT    | -      |              |              |
| GUNNERY        | -      |              |              |
| CHEMICAL       | -      |              |              |
| COMMUNICATIONS | H      | Monmond      | Lake Charles |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC   | -      |              |              |
| NAVIGATION     | -      |              |              |

## STATUS TODAY

|    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

EXPLANATION: *Pl. Fuel Press. Gage  
Fluctuates - T.O. 01-1-83 N/C/W*

## EXCEPTIONAL RELEASE

WHEN THE "STATUS TODAY" IS INDICATED BY A RED SYMBOL, AND AN "EXCEPTIONAL RELEASE" HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED BY AN AUTHORIZED ENGINEERING OFFICER, THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL SIGN THIS RELEASE BEFORE FLIGHT.

RELEASED FOR FLIGHT

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: PILOTS AND MECHANICS - SEE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE FRONT COVER.

## AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE TIME RECORD (ENTER IN HOURS AND MINUTES)

| ENGINE             | NO. 1         | NO. 2  | NO. 3 | NO. 4 |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| HOURS TO DATE      | 445:25        | 445:25 |       |       |
| HOURS TODAY        |               |        |       |       |
| TOTAL              |               |        |       |       |
| OIL CHANGE DUE     | E.C.          | E.C.   |       |       |
| CUNO. CLEANING DUE | 155:10        | 155:10 |       |       |
|                    | HOURS TO DATE | 445:25 |       |       |
| AIRCRAFT           | HOURS TODAY   |        |       |       |
|                    | TOTAL         |        |       |       |

I certify that this is a True Copy  
of the original Form 1A

*Victor Brussovansky*  
VICTOR BRUSSOVANSKY  
2nd. Lt., Air Corps  
Asst. Engineering Officer.

## ENGINE DATA

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) 92-153949     | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (2) 92-153949     | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (3) 92-153949     | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (4) 92-153949     | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| (5) 92-153949     | ENGINE SERIAL NO. |
| TOTAL FLIGHT TIME | :                 |

## AIRCRAFT DATA

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| A-20C-5  | AIRCRAFT MODEL      |
| 42-53185 | AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO. |
| A-20C-5  | AIRCRAFT MODEL      |
| 42-53185 | AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO. |

## AIRCRAFT ORG. DATA

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 3rd A.A.F.      | AIR FORCE          |
| 2nd Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |
| 5th Bomb. Group | GROUP NO. AND TYPE |

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9-9-43               | DATE                          |
| LAKE CHARLES         | STATION                       |
| 1st Lt. Brussovansky | CREW CHIEF OR AERIAL ENGINEER |

STATE OF LOUISIANA )  
 : SS  
PARISH OF CALCASIEU )

### A F F I D A V I T

Before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths in cases of this character, did personally appear this date, 7 September 1943, one 2nd Lt. Horace F. Pair, ASN O-747882, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

I was in Number Two position. The lead ship signalled for an echelon to the left. I peeled off to approximately 1000 Ft. and went into a Lufberry circle. The lead ship started a long gradual climb and disappeared into a cloud bank. The second ship followed, and I was the last to enter the cloud. While in the cloud bank I couldn't locate either of the other two ships. I pulled out of the cloud bank and started climbing. At approximately 4000 Ft. I located one of the ships, and he gave the signal to join formation. The lead ship went into a gradual turn to the left. I was cutting inside to overtake him. When approximately 300 Ft. to the rear, slightly above and behind the lead ship, the other ship came in from the left and passed between the lead ship and myself, the left wing striking the lead ship's tail, cutting it off. The lead ship fell to the left; the other ship disappeared to my right. I followed the lead ship down. The pilot left the plane, and I followed him until he landed.

I made several low passes over the parachute and could see no sign of life after it landed. I tried to call the field, but could not make contact. I left the scene of the crash, came closer to the field until radio contact was made. After giving information I was instructed to return to the scene and circle until other ships arrived.

Further Deponent sayeth not.

*Horace F. Pair*

HORACE F. PAIR  
2nd Lt., A. C.  
ASN O-747882

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 7th day of September 1943 at Army Air Field, Lake Charles, La.

*Iris E. Carter*  
Iris E. Carter  
Notary Public

My commission expires with life.



STATE OF LOUISIANA )  
 : SS  
PARISH OF CALCASIEU )

A F F I D A V I T

Before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths in cases of this character, did personally appear this date, 6 September 1943, one Donald Clement, Sulphur, Louisiana, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

I, Donald Clement, was standing in a field about a mile from where the collision took place. About 8:30 A.M., on 4 September 1943, I saw three or four airplanes flying around, but can't definitely say whether they were in formation or not. Two of the airplanes flew either into or above the clouds, as I couldn't see where they went, and the next thing I knew, they were falling from the bottom of the cloud, going in different directions, and one of them was spinning around toward the right. One of them came straight down into the ground; the other spun into the ground, and a man jumped from the spinning one, his parachute opening and floating him down. He was found dead, with his left arm cut off above his elbow, and his left leg was practically cut off.

One airplane seemed to have cut his engines off, but I am unable to say which one.

The tail of one of the airplanes floated down by itself, landing about one-half mile North of the place where the spinning airplane hit the ground.

Further Deponent sayeth not.

*Donald Clement*

DONALD CLEMENT  
Sulphur, La.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 6th day of September, 1943, at Army Air Field, Lake Charles, La.

*Iris E. Carter*  
Iris E. Carter  
Notary Public

My commission expires with life.

STATE OF LOUISIANA )  
 : SS  
PARISH OF CALCASIEU )

A F F I D A V I T

Before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths in cases of this character, did personally appear this date, 6 September 1943, one A. M. Chauvin, General Delivery, Vinton, La., who being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

I, A.M. Chauvin of Vinton, Louisiana, at about 8:30 A.M., 4 September 1943, heard the noise of the airplane, and saw them fall out of a cloud. One was spinning around and suddenly there was one explosion, then the pilot bailed out, and very shortly after that there was another explosion. The parachute opened and floated the pilot down, but he was dead.

The other airplane flew down toward the ground at a steep angle, and seemed to go directly straight into the ground the last few hundred feet.

The tail of one of the airplanes came down by itself, turning around and around and hit the ground about three-fourths of a mile Northeast of one airplane and one-half mile North of the other airplane.

Other pieces of airplane, papers, etc., fluttered down over a large area.

Further Deponent sayeth not.

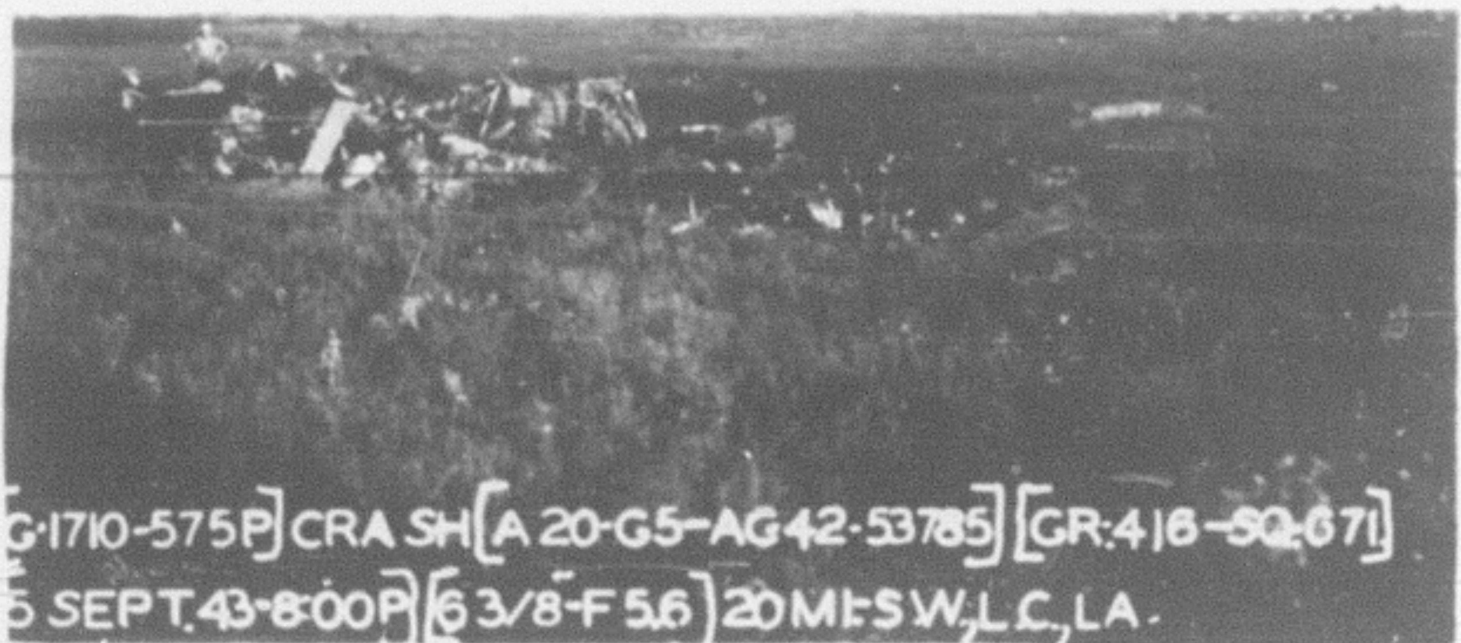
*A. M. Chauvin*

A. M. CHAUVIN  
Gen. Delivery,  
Vinton, La.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 6th day of September, 1943, at Army Air Field, Lake Charles, La.

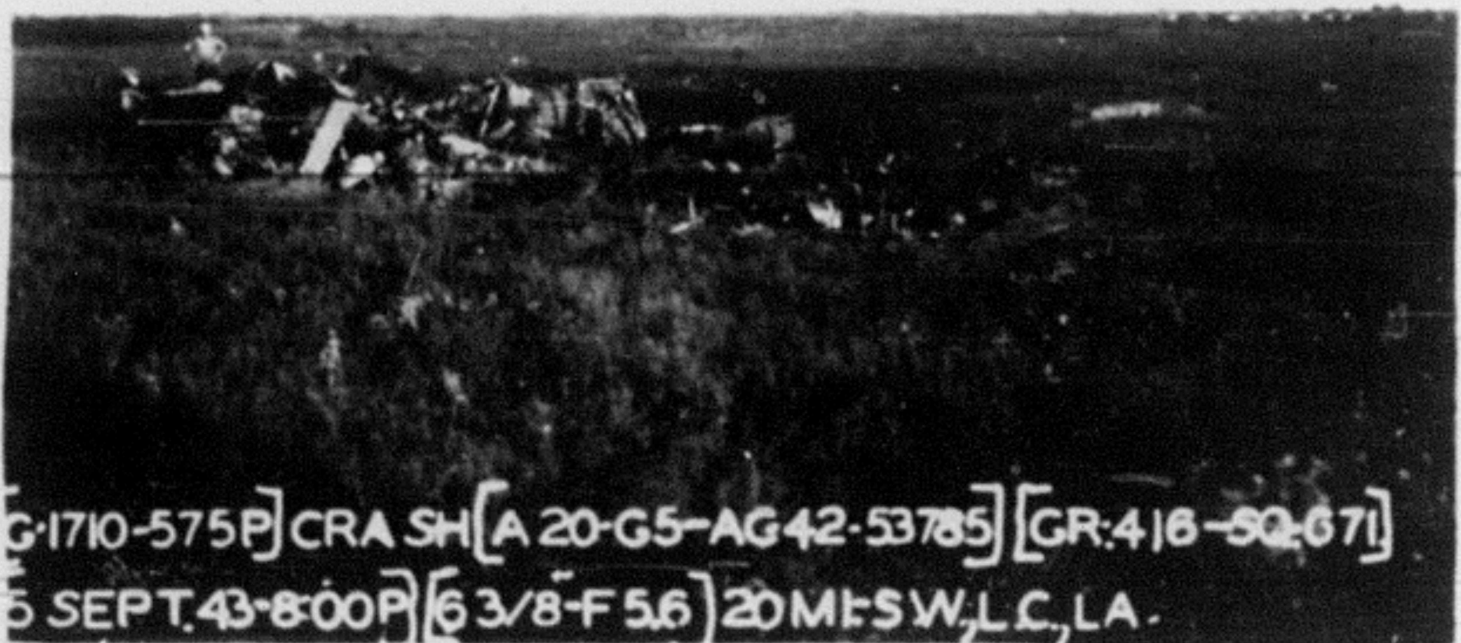
*Iris E. Carter*  
Iris E. Carter  
Notary Public

My commission expires with life.











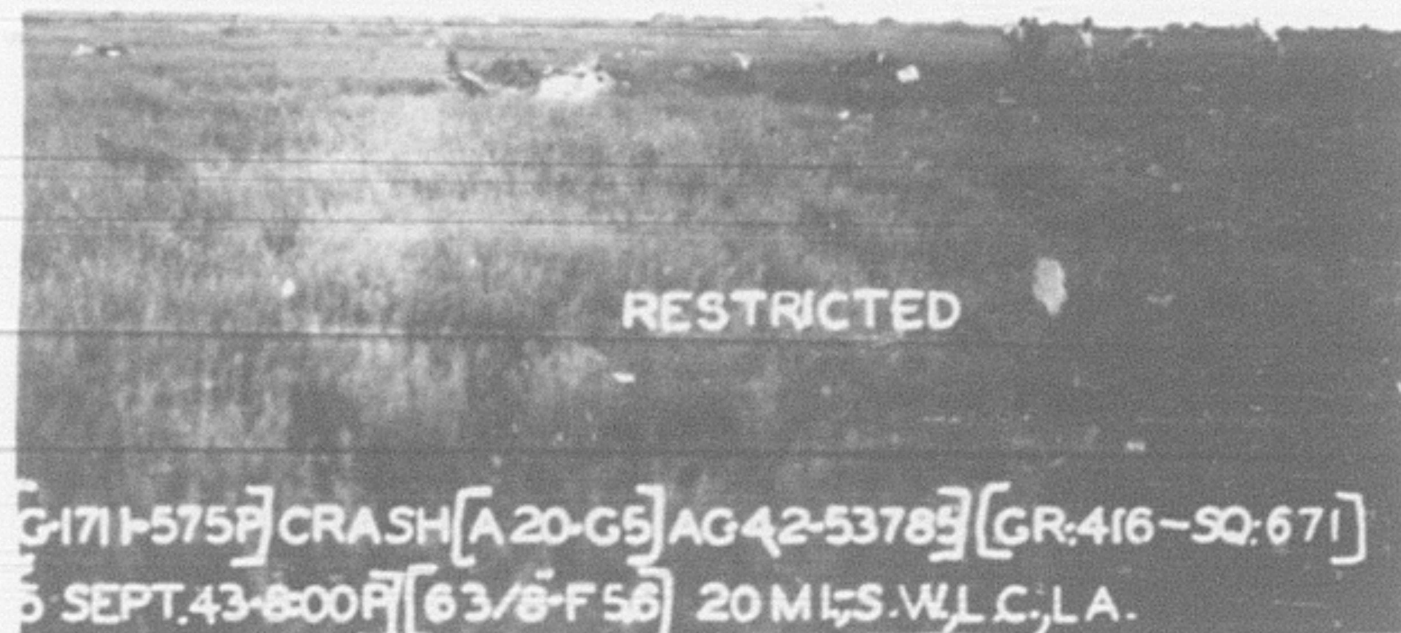








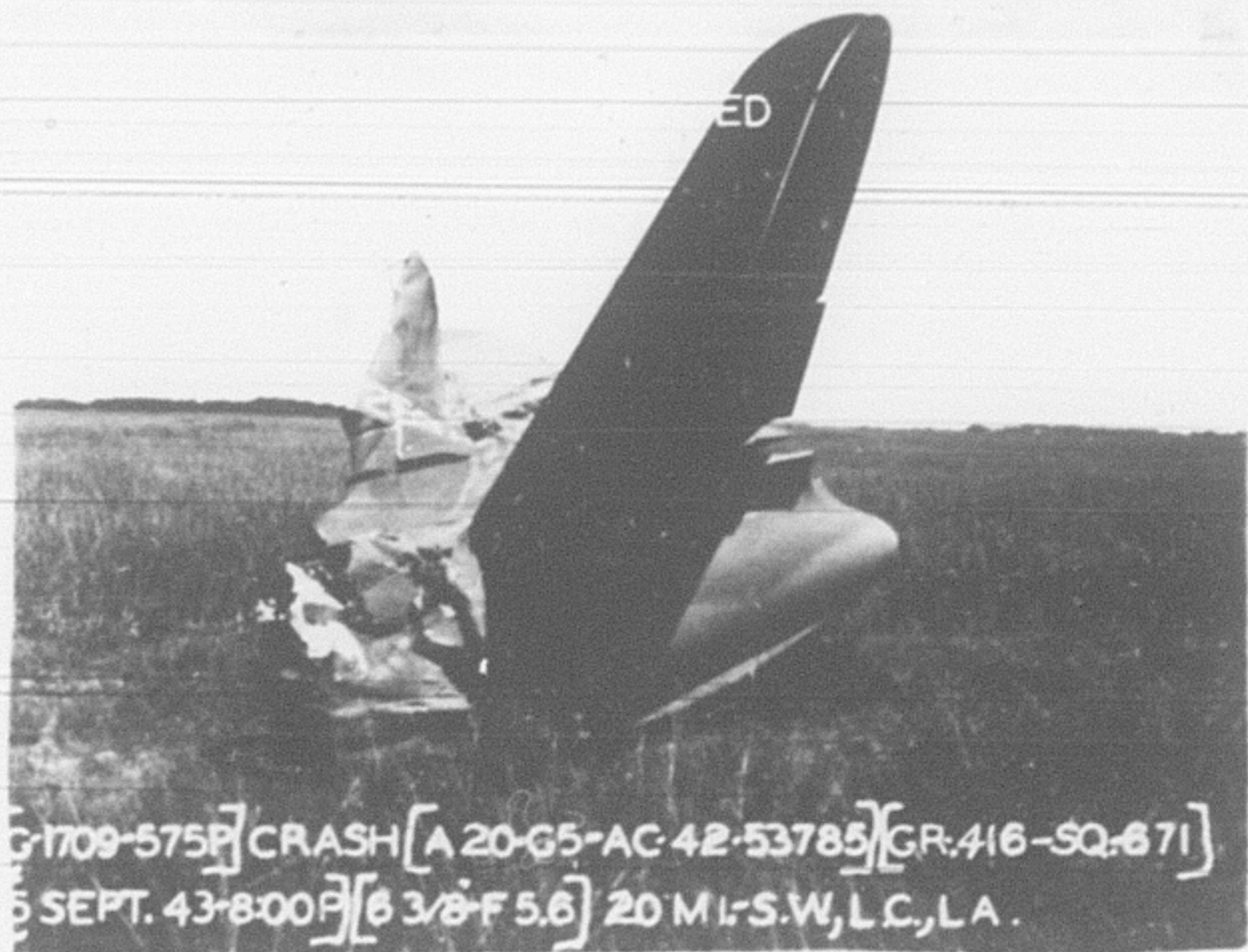
G-1709-575P] CRASH [A 20-G5-AC 42-53785] [GR:416-SQ:671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [6 3/8-F 5.6] 20 MI. S.W., L.C., L.A.



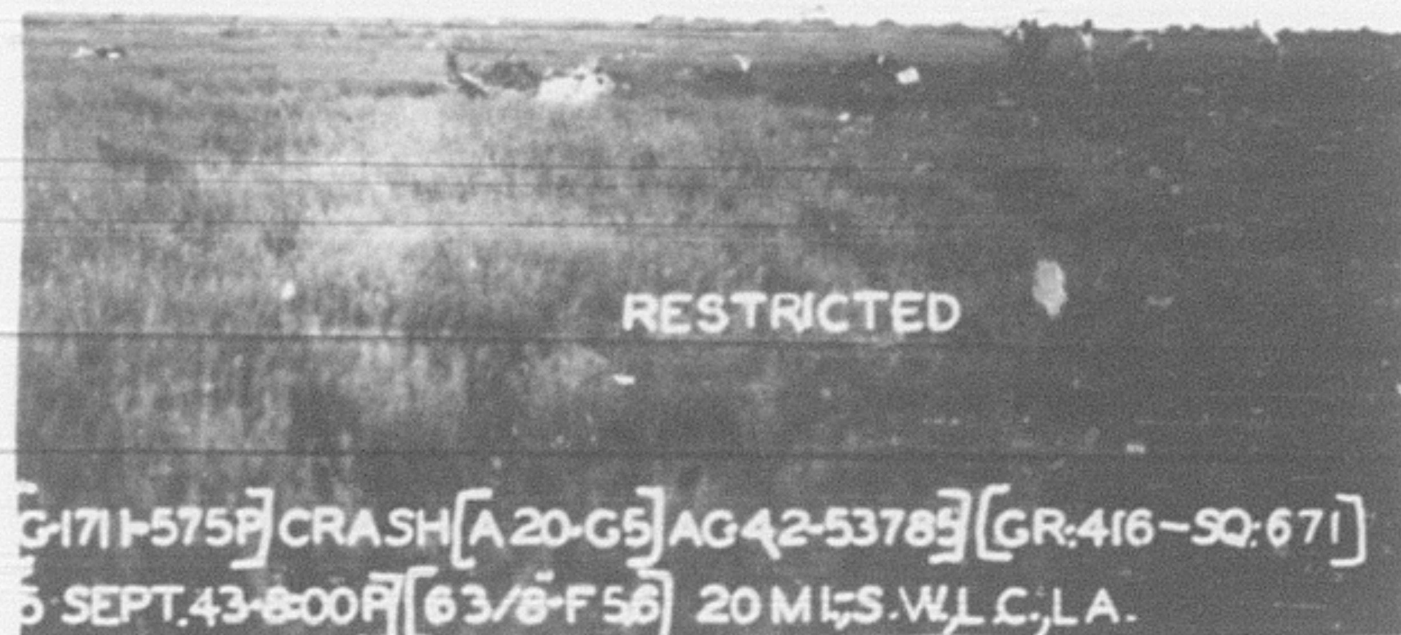
RESTRICTED

G-1711-575P] CRASH [A 20-G5] AG 42-53785] [GR:416-SQ:671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [6 3/8-F 5.6] 20 MI. S.W., L.C., L.A.



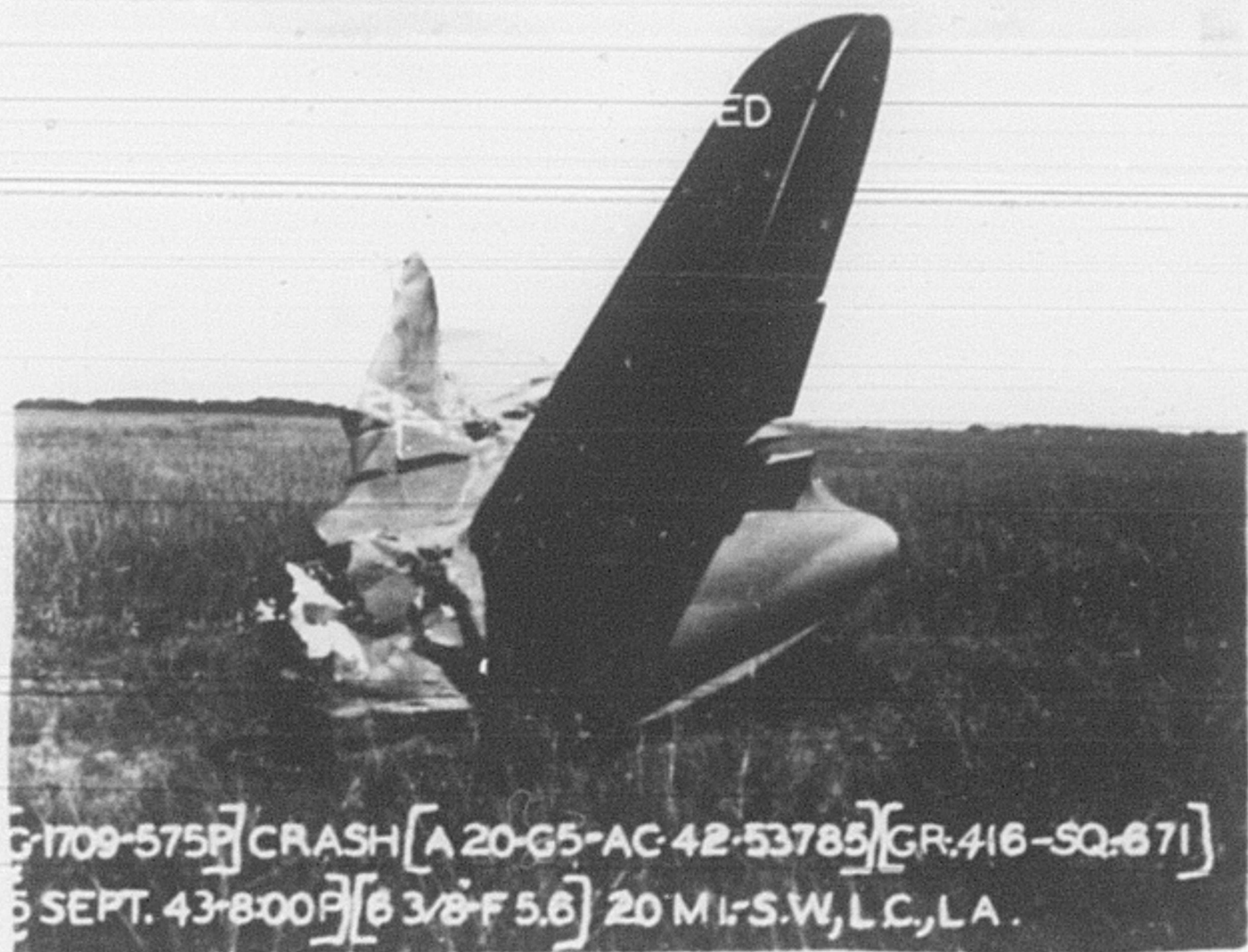


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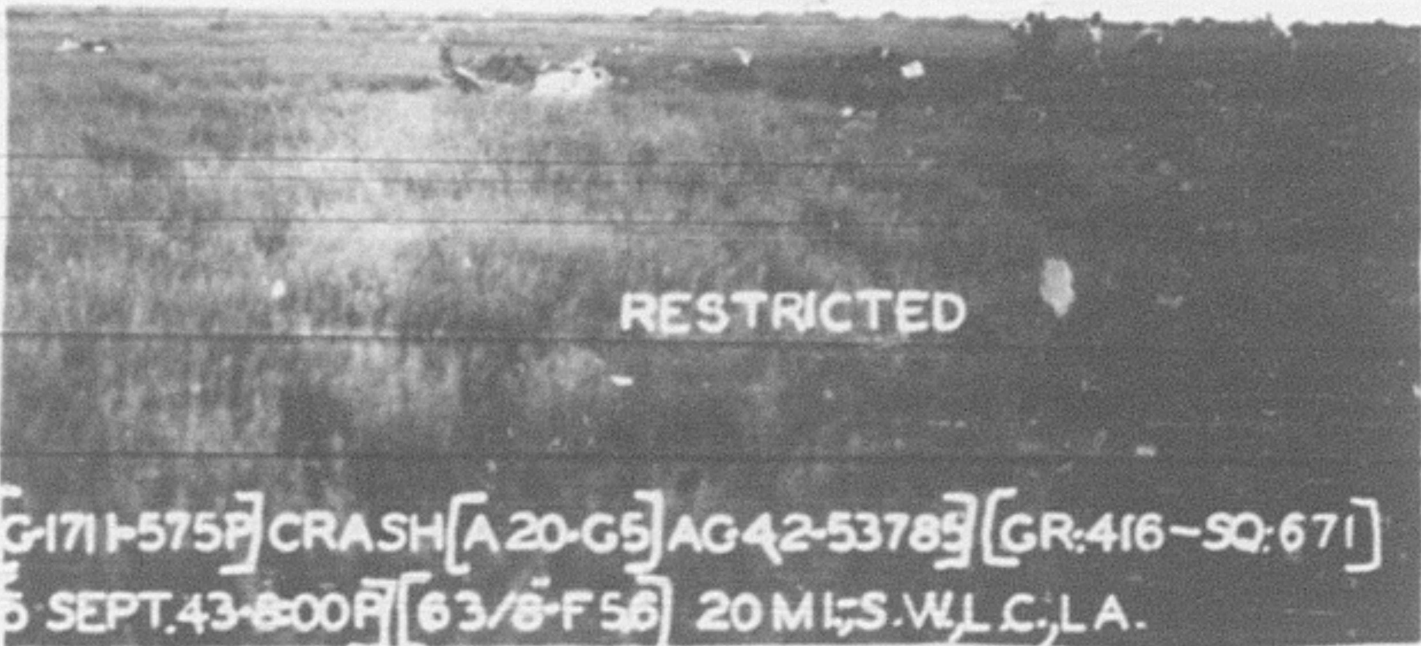
RESTRICTED

G-1711-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5] AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MI. S.W. L.C., LA.



G-1707-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5-AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MI. S.W. L.C., LA.



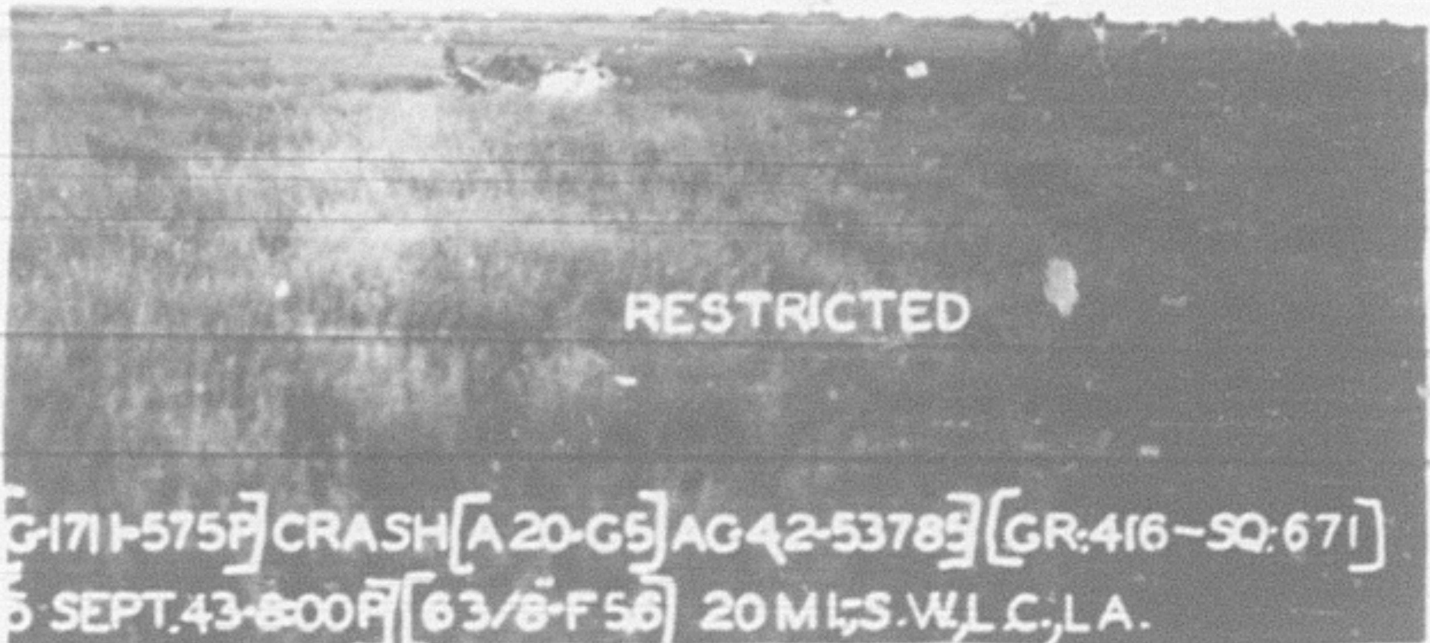


RESTRICTED

G-1711-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5] AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MI. S.W. L.C., L.A.

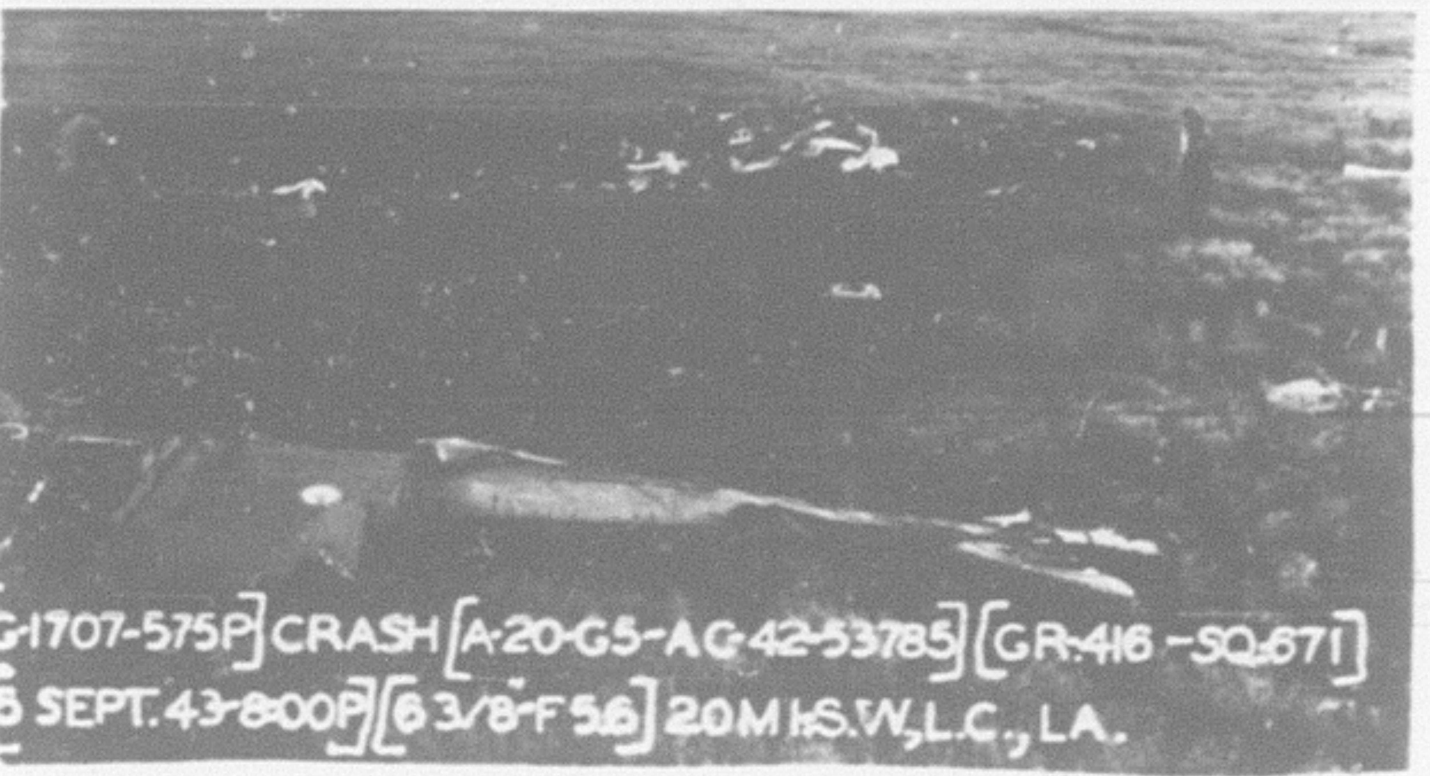


G-1707-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5-AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MI. S.W. L.C., L.A.



RESTRICTED

G-1711-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5] AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MILES W, L.C., LA.



G-1707-575P] CRASH [A-20-G5-AG-42-53785] [GR-416-SQ-671]  
5 SEPT. 43-800P] [63/8-F56] 20 MILES W, L.C., LA.

HEADQUARTERS  
LAKE CHARLES ARMY AIR FIELD  
Office of the Commanding Officer

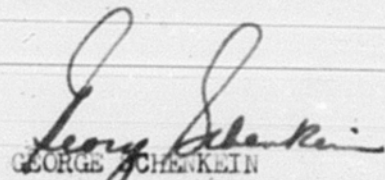
Lake Charles, La.  
11 September 1943

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Headquarters, Flight Control Command, Army Air Forces,  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Submitted herewith is report of accident officer of accident involving 2nd Lt. Robert W. Merten, AC, ASN O-806309, in A-20G-5, and 2nd Lt. Walter J. Burke, AC, ASN O-800465, in A-20G-10, on 4 September 1943, at this station.

For the Commanding Officer:

  
GEORGE CHENKEIN  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Adjutant

2 Incls.  
2 AAF Forms #14  
with incls.



ARMY AIR FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR ACTION AMH  
FOR INFO. CS  
FOR FILE M&R

DATE 6 SEPT 1943

☒ T. W. X.

☐ TELEGRAM

☐ RADIO

INCOMING  
MESSAGE NO. MSG 31 ARL 234 6 SEPT

FM DICK COBOMGR 416TH AAB LAKE CHARLES LA 051530Z

TO CG AAF WASHINGTON D C

NGR

LCAAF 416BG S37E PD CITE 416BG S26E PD FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED ON ACCIDENT INVOLVING 2ND LT, S ROBERT W  
MORTON AND WALTER J BURKE 411BG 671 BOMRON GOLDN ACCIDENT FATAL TO  
BOTH PILOTS PD UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY 2ND LT WALTER J BURKE  
TO USE PARACHUTE PD END

RECD IN AAF MSU CENT 051714Z

RECD BY AFAFC 060924 EWT

TO TWX 061000 EWT

MH 1235EWT

no. 51  
1640Z

rg

**MASTER COPY**

503.

ARMY AIR FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR ACTION AIU ✓  
FOR INFO. CS  
FOR FILE M&R

DATE 4 SEPTEMBER 1943

X T. W. X.

TELEGRAM

RADIO

INCOMING  
MESSAGE NO. MSG 24 ARL 234 4 SEP 43

FM DICK 416TH COBOMGR LAKE CHARLES LA 061630Z

TO CG AAF WASHINGTON D C

NGR

LCAAF 416BG S26E PERIOD 4 SEPTEMBER 0815 TWENTY FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST  
CALCASIEU LAKE LA PILOT ROBERT W MORTON 2ND AUS 3AF 3BC 56TH BOMB WG  
416BG 671 BOMRON MID-AIR COLLISION PILOT INJURY UNKNOWN NO PASSENGERS.  
UNKNOWN. FORMATION FLYING NO TWO POSITION VISIBILITY UNLIMITED SCATTERED  
CLOUDS AT 1500 FEET. 42-53785 A-20G-5 416BG LCAAF TOTAL WRECK TURNED  
OVER TO 50TH SUB-DEPOT LCAAF. UNKNOWN PILOT A-20G-10 42-54044 WALTER  
E BURKE 2ND LT AUS 3AF 3BC 56TH BOMB TRNG WG 416BG 671 BOMRON MID-AIR  
COLLISION. PILOT INJURY UNKNOWN, NO PASSENGERS. LEADING FORMATION  
FLIGHT VISIBILITY UNLIMITED, SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1500 FEET. 42-54044  
A-20G-10 LCAAF TOTAL WRECK. UNKNOWN, TURNED OVER TO 50TH SUB-DEPOT,  
LCAAF, AFACG NOT NOTIFIED. ONE PILOT PARACHUTED OUT, NAME UNKNOWN  
AT PRESENT

P R I O R I T Y

RECD IN AAF MSG CEN 041818Z

RECD BY AFACG 041536EWT

TO TWX 041540EWT

MH1632EWT

MASTER COPY

#61-jh

751:7-43

ARMY AIR FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR ACTION A I U  
FOR INFO. C S  
FOR FILE M & R

DATE 4 SEPTEMBER 1943

☒ T. W. X.

☐ TELEGRAM

☐ RADIO

INCOMING  
MESSAGE NO. WSAL 361 V LKCH55 NRL8 "PRIORITY"

ARMY AIR FIELD LAKECHARLES LA SEPT 4 1943 0105PM

COMMANDING GENERAL FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND WINSTON SALEM, NC

416BG S227E 1805Z STOP 4 SEPTEMBER 0815 TWENTY FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST

CALCASIEU LAKE LA. PILOT ROBERT W MORTON, 2ND-LT, AUS, 3AF 3BC,

56TH BOMB WG 416 BG 671 BOMRON. MID-AIR COLLISION. PILOT INJURY

UNKNOWN. NO PASSENGERS, UNKNOWN. FORMATION FLYING NO TWO POSITION.

VISIBILITY UNLIMITED SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1500 FEET. 42-53785 A-20G-5

416BG LCAAF. TOTAL WRECK. TURNED OVER TO 50TH SUB DEPOT, LCAAF.

UNKNOWN. PILOT A-20G-10 42-54044 WALTER E BURKE, 2ND LT AUS, 3AF,

3BC, 56TH BOMB TRNG WG, 416BG, 671 BOMRON. MID-AIR COLLISION. PILOT

INJURY UNKNOWN, NO PASSENGERS. LEADING FORMATION FLIGHT. VISIBILITY

UNLIMITED, SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1500 FEET 42-54044 A-20G-10 416 BG

LCAAF. TOTAL WRECK. UNKNOWN. TURNED OVER TO 50TH SUB DEPOT, LCAAF.

AFACG NOT NOTIFIED ONE PILOT PARACHUTED OUT. NAME UNKNOWN AT PRESENT

SIGNED DICK COBOMGR 416

MCCOY COAA

#62

d11

MASTER COPY

751:7-43