WAR DEPARTMENT AAF FORM No. 14 (Rev. 1 Out. 94) DATE PRELIMINARY RE-12-12 ARMY AIR FORCES FORM 14 RECEIVED REPORT OF MAJOR ACCIDENT V EVALUATED SE . £ 1500 The this form in accordance with AAF Reg. 62-14 and "Aircraft Accident 2 12 Investigator's Handbook" issued by Office of Flying finisty, Bendquarters, AAF. · 1 . Fill in all spaces except where otherwise indirected. If additional space is needed, use additional short(s) and identify by proper No. Amerape Non letter and subsection number. Section A-GENERAL INFORMATION
PLACE OF ACCIDENT State, County/Nearest Town, Distance and Direction from Same. AF Nos. of AIRCRAFT INVOLVED (File separate Form :4 for a - Zalma Fld -Bollinger Malden 38 E. WAS COLLEGEN WITH OTHER AIRCRAFT? DAT YES X No 13Dec44 0215 CWT -AIRCRAFT Section B 1. AIBCRAFT NO. 2. Type Mone 3. HOME STATE Air Field 43-16047 4 AIR FORCE OR COMMAND Malden Army SUBCOMMAND OVERHAULING DEPOT OR SUP-DI E. DATE OF MANUFAC 10 June None irplane received new 2 Aug Section C-OPERATOR (Person at controls at time of accident) L LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL ASN Age Robert AF OR COMMAND 0829532 26 2d Lt A.C. Moser 2. ATTACHED STATION I.T.C.C T.C.C. 61 Malden Field Same Same Same same ENT RATING DATE RECEIVED 5. NORMAL DUTY STATUS 4. AERONAUTICAL RATING? X YES No 15Apr 44 Pilot Pilot -OPERATOR'S FLYING EXPERIENCE (Including civilian) Section D-(Primary) Bennetsville, SC, Fill in items 8 and 9 only if operator was etadent in train-ing or rated pilot in CIB, OTU, etc. IST PILOT OR SOLO STUDENT OTHER PHOT OR FLYING TIME 3. TRAINER CLASS NO. AND SCHOOL, OTU, CCTS, ETC. Oct, 1943 to Nov, 1943 HOURS 318:55 463:15 (Basic) Shaw Fld, S.C., Phase III, I.T.C.C. RTU Dec, 1943 to Feb., 1944 2. Hours 9. PHASE AND HOURS IN THIS PHASE (Advance) George Fld, Ill, 55:30 83:25 DUAL OR COPILOT SOLO OR 18T PILOT Feb., 1944 to Apr., 1944 MODEL 39:20 III 11:45 73:10 53:30 11. INSTRUMENT RATING 90 DAYS If answer to number 12 is Yes, or if accident occurred at night or undatinatement or unknown conditions, fill in items 13 through 17. 36:00 81:55 6 Mar 44 White House HOURS LAST LAST CHECK III DATE 19:25 21:35 17:45 16:45 13. TOTAL-IMPTEUMENT eorge Fld 6 Mar 44 12:40 17:45 HOURS LAST 4:45 5:00 6:10 COMPAT HOURS 30:00 25:55 16. NIGHT, LAST 6 MOR YES X No None None DATE Section E—PERSONNEL INVOLVED (Including operator and all other persons, whether in plane or not) PARACHUTES AERO, LATING (Sym-bols) Direc ORG. ASSIGNMENT—
AIR FORCE OR COMMAND
GROUP NUMBER AND TYPE
STATION GRADE AND BRANCH OF SERVICE TIME OF AC (Last Name First) (AAF Reg. 15-1) USED SERIAL NO. Yes No Yes No (9) (10) (11) (12) (S) (1) (20) (3) (4) (6) ITCC,815 AAFFatal4x 218 0829532 2d Lt,AC Moser, Robert M. P P BU, Malden F/0, AG 118 ITCC,815 AAFFatelyx T-65456 CP Ratay, Emil P. P BU, Malden 38 ITCC,815 AAF 35732429 Cpl, AC Schauss, William H. AE AE BU, Malden Fatal'/x 38 ITCC, 815 AAF Newell, Kenneth H. RO 39208274 Cpl, AC RO Fatalix BU, Malden Crtil. RESTRICTED WHEN ENTRIES ARE MADE HEREON 15-41609-1 Vile

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3. ENGINE No.				: 0:1
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6. TOTAL ENGINE-HOURS	[y] =	- "ki 181"		
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8. PROPELLER-HOURS SPICE MAJOR OVERSLIUS				
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ENGINEERING OFFICER (Name, Grade, and Station)		lives newtork		
		AL EQUIPMENT	Allegation	
(Use this section if special equipment—paracha for any	ies, radio, dinghies, exygen equ russon including failure, mires	ipment, fire extinguishers is, or by reason of not bein	, eic.—was a contribution g in the piane)	g catte factor in the stellant
1. DESCRIBE HOW THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT CONTES	BUTED TO THE ACCIDENT OF T	In Regula		B
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Section J-AIRPORT AND FACILITIES AND	
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1. Explain	
Santa K. WEATHER M	
Section K-WEATHER (No most be signed by weather officer 1. WHAT WAS THE WEATHER AT THE TIME AND PRICE OF THE ACCOUNTS Coiling unlim:	tad. visibility unrestricte
Wind WNW 6 MPH	E IF
2. Is Weather Was a Pactor in the Accident, State How and Attack Copy of Weather Emports	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
WEATHER OFFICER High & Harrison 1st Lt. AC.	Malden Army Air Field. Mo.
Section L—GENERAL INFORMATION	
1. If Erhor on the Part of Someone Other Than the Operator Was a Factor, State How	
	2 **
2. WHAT WAS THE MISSION!	2. Did Fins Occur Upon Chasened? Yas No
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5. DESTPLINARY ACTION TAKEN OR CONTRIPLATED	
4. KDID OF CLEARANCE (Attach Form 21) Phont To	On LOCAL STATION OF LAST DEPARTURE
Local Trans	
7. If UR FORM 54 Has Bren Submitted on any Frature Involved in the Accident, Give UR No.	DATE
EXPLAIN FULLY AND ATTACH COPY	
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S. ARE COVIES OF AAF PORMS 1, 1A, ATTACKED STATES	4. ARS PROTOS ATTACHED? YES No
AS REQUIRED BY AAF REGULATION 63-14? FORMS IN A COLD.	■ 1.000

Section M-DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

1. Tell in Naerative Form, in as Much Devail as Necessart, Evertuing Teat is Known About the Academy. Be Sure to Cover Everture - Teat May Have Contributed Toward the Academy. Include Recommendations for Action to Prevent Sheers Academy, and Action Taken

2nd Lt. Robert M. Moser and his crew took off from Malden A.A.F. at approximately 0030, 13 December 1944, in airplans #43-16047 after completing 3 hours and 15 minutes of glider tow under the supervision of his instructor, 1st Lt. Guy C. Wallis. The mission was to be a routine training flight to complete two hours of optional flying time.

One hour and 45 minutes later, circreft #43-16047 orashed two siles northeast of Zalma, Missouri, in a rough, wooded area. The crash and resulting explosion attracted the attention of Mr. L. A. James and his wife who live a mile and a half from the scene of the crash and were the nearest inhabitants. Mr. James investigated and reported the crash to this station. There were no witnesses that saw the actual crash. Mr. James stated that both he and his wife had heard an airplane flying over his house a few minutes prior to the time of the crash but they had not heard anything unusual, such as an airplane flying extremely low or having engine trouble.

The scene of the accident gave very little evidence as to the possible cause or causes that resulted in the crash. The plane, flying from north to south at a speed estimated by the Accident Board to be between 180 and 200 MPH hit the tree tops in a left wing low attitude of 45 degrees or more, sliced through 36 yds. of trees, glanced from the top of the first ridge, shown in accompanying diagram, and exploded upon impact with the next ridge. While the apparent attitude of the airplane was left wing low, the direction of travel was straight forward, more or less eliminating the possibility of a spiral.

The Aircraft Accident Committee submits the cause as undetermined as there was no supporting proof of a determined cause. A number of possible causes are submitted as follows:

- l. The possibility of a forced landing or instrument let-down was slight because of the speed at which the aircraft struck the ground. Also a pilot on instruments would be more alert concerning his altitude. Substantiating this is the fact that no radio contact with Advance Radio had been made requesting permission to work a range problem.
- that the blades of both propellers were bent in a manner which indicated they struck the ground under power.

(Cont'd on Supplemental Page 1, Section M)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the circumstances and conditions surrounding this accident, no recommendations can be made by this committee.

THE THE PARTY OF T

All rated personnel of this station are being directed to exercise more diligence in checking their altitude above the terrain. Emphasis is also being placed upon variations of the terrain elevations in the local flying area. While they are not great in this area, and the elevation at the scene of the accident was only 204 feet above the local field elevation, it may have had a bearing on this accident.

BTATION.	ACH MEMBER MUST SIGN.	REPORTING	Malden Army A	ir Field,	Malden, Mo.
JACOB P.	SARTZ JR.	ROBERT	I fruit	VERN A.	OPPERANDER
Maior	815 AAFBU	Capt	815 AAREU	ist Lt.	815 AAF BU
KIDBORN	LEWIS Cuis	FRANK K	RAYMOND RESIDENCE	NAME - REPORTS	
1st Lt.	ORGANIZATION 815 AAFBU	Major	815 AAFBU	GRADE	

Section M - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT (Cont'd)

- 3. There is a possibility that the pilot failed to change gasoline tanks and did not succeed in getting his engine started again before impact with the ground. There was, however, a sufficiency of gasoline on board as evidenced by the fact that the aircraft exploded and burned with terrific heat. Also pieces thrown clear of the wreckage by the explosion had definite odor of gasoline upon the arrival of the Investigating Committee.
- 4. The possibility of vertigo was suggested, but it is felt that it would have been very improbable that both pilot and co-pilot were afflicted at the same time.
- 5. The possibility of "buzzing" seems the most probable because of the speed and the low altitude. However, there are no cities, bridges, night clubs, etc., in the area which most pilots usually pick out for "buzzing." In fact the area in which the crash occurred is quite isolated and there would be very few, if any, lights or signs of inhabitants at this time of night.
- 6. There is the possibility that the pilots might have set their altimeters at the wrong altitude indication. However, due to the number of landings that had been previously made while on glider tow, it is felt by this committee that such an error would have been detected. It is possible that the pilots could have misinterpreted the altitude indication on the altimeter, however, it is hardly likely they would be intentionally flying over this area at an altitude which would allow them to misinterpret to an error of this degree.
- 7. There is a remote possibility that the pilots might have been using the automatic pilot and that some difficulty might have arisen from that source. However, due to the condition of the wreckage, it was utterly impossible to determine anything concerning such a possibility.

(Cont'd on Supplemental Page 2, Section M)

Section M - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT (Cont'd)

There were no witnesses to the accident, and the condition of the wreckage was such as to preclude any possibility of determining a positive cause for this accident. The Accident Committee must, therefore, classify this accident as undetermined.

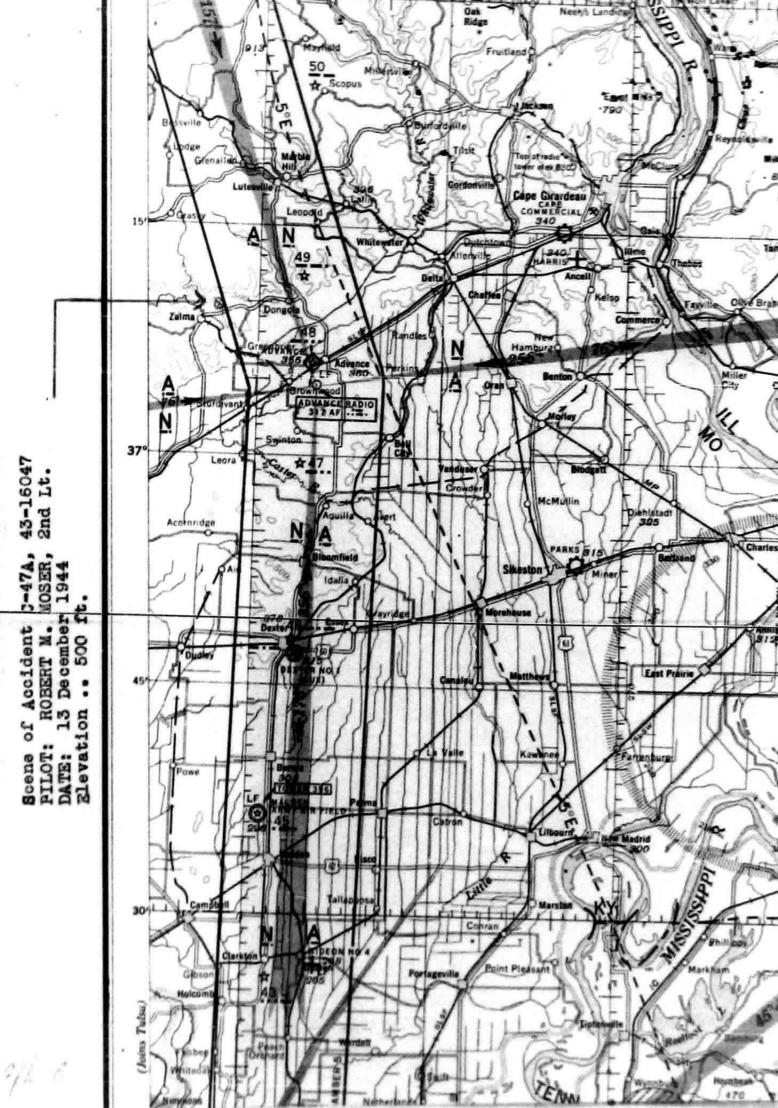
AIRPLANE FLIGHT REPORT - properties

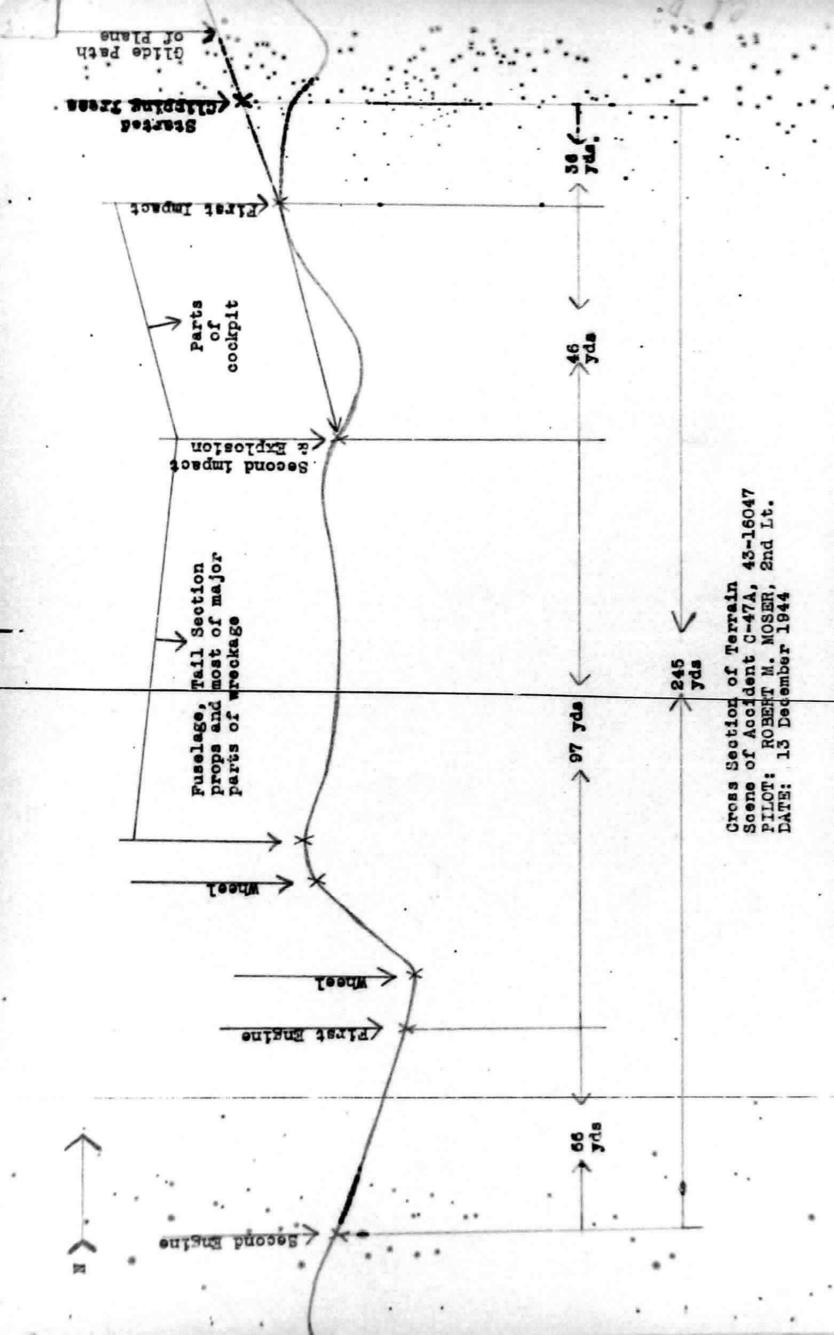
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The oil leak on the right engine was investigated by questioning the crew chiefs. It was found that the right engine was throwing oil slightly, as most engines usually do, and it was written up by the crew chief so that the attention of the Maintenance Crews would be attracted.

Milburn Lewis, 1st Lt., Air Corps, Member, Aircraft Accident Committee.





IOCAL CLEARANCE

inst	E Schauss, Wm. Cpl.
P Moser. Robert M. 2nd Lt.	
OP Ratay, Rmil P. F/O	RO Newell, Kenneth Cpl.
OI,	ARO
Time of take-off 2100	Airplane Field No. 11
Time of return 03:00	AAF Plane No. 43-16047
Destination Local	ТураС-47
Mission I.T Bundle drop	Approved:
/s/ R. M. MOSER 2nd Lt.	G G D

(This form must be filled out properly and filed with Operations before flight)
(LIST /LL P.SSENGERS ON REVERSE SIDE)

Form SFT - 18A

KILBURN LEWIS, 1st Lt., AC Ass't Operations Officer.

Ech B

RESTRICTED

INDEX

INDEX

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

C-47A 43-16047

- EXHIBIT A. WD, AAF FORM 14 REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT
 - " B. LOCAL CLEARANCE
 - " C. WD, AAF FORM #1A
 - D. CROSS SECTION OF TERRAIN
 - E. SCHNE OF ACCIDENT MAP
 - " F. PHOTOGRAPHS (2 pages)

Basic: AAF Form No. 14, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Moser (Pilot), MAAF, Malden, Mo., dtd 13 Dec 44.

lst Ind. co/CAC/rma
Headquarters, Malden Army Air Field, Malden, Missouri, 21 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, AAF, Winston-Salem 1, North Carolina. ATTN: Chief, Flying Safety.

- Action of the board read and understood and is approved in its entirety.
- Corrective action cannot be taken as cause of accident cannot be determined. This accident is to be used as an illustration against "buzzing", in spite of the fact there is no definite proof that the cause was low flying.
- 3. Subject report is being forwarded in accordance with existing regulations.

CHARLES A. COMPNG, Lt. Colonel, Air Corp Commanding.

Looking North: Where plane first started clipping the trees



#2
Looking North:
From point of first
impact on top of
first ridge in
diagram



#3
Looking South:
Prom point of first
impact



Looking North: From second ridge where explosion occurred.







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FM COMMANDING OFFICER C C T S I T C C MALDEN ARMY AIR FIELD MALDEN MISSOURI

TO COMMANDING GENERAL AAF WASHINGTON 25 DC

TO COMMANDING GENERAL AAF WINSTON SALEN 1 M C. ATTN CHIEF OFFICE OF FLYING SAFETY

TO MEADQUARTERS I T C C STOUT FIELD INDIANAPOLIS 6 INDIANA
ATTN A-3 SECTION

OFFICE OF FLYING SAFETY CITY HALL KANSAS CITY MISSOURI ATTN LT COL CHURCHILL

TO SCHMOODING OFFICER 6187 TROOP CARAISE VINC SEDALIA AAF

HESSAGE .

A57

#C324

AUS V UNV MICE MISROUTE

WIV V WORR MRIAS UD R

FM COVING GOAD MAAF CCTS ITCC MALDEN ARMY AIR FIELD MALDEN WISSOURI DECEMBER 1316212 TJS

TO COMMANDING GENERAL AAF VINSTON SALEN NO ATTH CHIEF OFFICE OF FLYING SAFETY

GRIC

- A 13 DEC 1944 PD 6215CVT CHA TWO HILES N OF ZALMA CHA HISSOURI
- B C-47A CHA 43-16647 CHA 815 AAFBU CHA HAAF CHA HALDEN HO PD COMPLETE WRECK PD SURVEY
- C PILOT ROBERT H HOSER 2ND LT CHA 6629532 CHA SQDN T CHA 815 AAFBU ITCC CHA MAAF CHA MALDEN HO PD FATAL PD
- D SAME
- D E CO PILOT EMIL P RATAY F/O T-65456 CMA \$15 AAFBU ITCC PD FATAL

ENGINEER WILLIAM H SCHAUSS CPL 35732429 CHA 815 AAFBU

ITCC PD

FATAL

RADIO OPERATOR KEMMETH N NEWELL CPL 39298274 CHA 815 AAFBU ITCC PD FATAL

- F UNKNOWN
- C UNKNOWN
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- I LOCAL
- J TRAINING
- E CAVE CHA WIND WHY 6 NPH
- L GROWN
- M AFRED MOTIFIED PD GROUP I PD

EMD 157

19132

13 DECEMBER PILOT ROBERT M MOSER PD

- COLLISION WITH GROUND IN WOODED AREA PD APPARENT LOW FLYING CHA PLANE STRUCK GROUND AT AS DEGREE ANGLE PD POSSIBLE PILOT WORKING RANGE PROBLEM CHA ADVANCE RANGE CHA NO
- G APPARENTLY NOWE
- N POSSIBLE PD NO VITNESSES
- L NOME

END MMOP-158

CONTING COAR

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