

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RESTRICTED 130

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

44-4-24-523

4

(1) Place Grafton Underwood (2) Date 24 April, 1944 (3) Time 1407

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17-G 040 (5) A. F. No. 2-32789 (6) Station 106

Organisation: (7) 8th Air Force (8) Bomb (9) 544 Bombardment (H)
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL BH

2354

DUITY	NAME (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)
<u>01 P</u>	<u>Nuttall, Alfred C.</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>0-404094</u>	<u>Lt. Col.</u>	<u>2801</u>	<u>AC</u>	<u>8th AF</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>04 OP</u>	<u>Cole, Alfred, H.</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>0-692763</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>AC</u>	<u>8th AF</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>65 N</u>	<u>Gantert, Harold E.</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>0-709977</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>1801</u>	<u>AC</u>	<u>8th AF</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>11 RC</u>	<u>Anderson, Charles L.</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>1616878</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>3820</u>	<u>AC</u>	<u>8th AF</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>



PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Nuttall, Alfred C. (21) 0-404094 (22) Lt. Col. (23) 18 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personal class) (Branch)

Assigned (25) 8th Air Force (26) Bomb (27) 544 Bombardment (H) (28) 106
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Attached for flying (29) 8th Air Force (30) Bomb (31) 544 Bombardment (H) (32) 106
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 7-7-41 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 7-7-41 Instrument rating (37) 12 March, 1943
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	<u>966:35</u>	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	<u>00:00</u>
(39) This model	<u>73:00</u>	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	<u>00:00</u>
(40) Last 90 days	<u>64:20</u>	(44) Night time last 6 months	<u>01:30</u>
(41) Total	<u>1726:30</u>	(45) Night time last 30 days	<u>00:00</u>

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NF

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>5</u>	<u>Salvaged</u>
(47) Engine(s) <u>WWS WWS WWS WWS</u>	<u>Complete destruction to aircraft except, right</u>
(48) Propeller(s) <u>WWS WWS WWS WWS</u>	<u>outer wing, #2 & 3 props & engines, tail.</u>

(50) Weather at the time of accident ceiling 5/10 at 2,500 feet, 10/10th over 10,000 feet...
visibility seven (7) miles. Surface wind West at sixteen miles per hour.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident NO
(52) Cleared from 106 2354 (53) To Local Flying 2354 (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Training

(56) Nature of accident Left wing fire

(57) Cause of accident Gasoline was syphoning from left wing, caught on fire and
exploded while aircraft was twenty (20) feet above landing end of runway.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

In the Opinion of this board the accident was due to one hundred (100) percent mechanical failure.

Due to the fact the aircraft was two thirds demolished by fire actual mechanical failure in unknown.

Lieutenant Colonel Nuttall noticed, immediately after take-off, gasoline was syphoning from number one (1) engine. Rocking of wings violently failed to stop flow of gasoline.

Lieutenant Colonel Nuttall's next intention was to land immediately. He was cleared by tower as number one (1) to land, and while on final approach, approximately twenty (20) feet above landing end of runway, the left outer wing blew up. The impact of the aircraft "Dropping in" from approximately twenty (20) feet caused the left landing gear to collapse, throwing aircraft to left of runway, where it was two thirds demolished by fire.

Signature

Thomas P. Beckett
(Investigating Officer)

Thomas P. Beckett, Lt. Col., AC

Arthur M. Stone Jr.
Arthur M. Stone Jr., Capt., AC

Charles W. Bishop
Charles W. Bishop, 1st Lt., AC

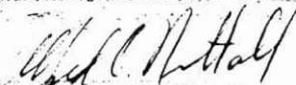
544TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Squadron Commander

24 April 1944

SUBJECT: Statement of accident of B-17G A/C #42-37789.

TO : Commanding Officer, Station 106, APO 557.

1. I took off on a practice and test flight at 1400 on 24 April 1944. Immediately after take-off I noticed that gasoline was coming from #1 engine. I then decided to land immediately. I tried rocking the wings violently to stop the flow but to no avail. On the final approach just as the plane was about to cross the end of the runway, the fuel caught fire. At about 20 ft in the air the wing exploded and the wing from #1 engine out was blown off. The ship fell off to the left and hit the runway very hard which caused the left landing gear to collapse. Engines were cut immediately and we came to a stop. The Co-Pilot left the plane through the right cockpit window and the rest of the crew through the main entrance way. No injuries were sustained. Landed at 1407.


ALFRED C. NUTTALL,
Lt Col., Air Corps,
Commanding Officer.

HEADQUARTERS
RESTRICTED
AAF STATION No. 106
Office of the Flying Control Officer

R-1-5

April 24, 1944.

SUBJECT: Crash landing of B-17 #7709.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF Station No. 106.

1. At 1400 hours 7709 took off on a local high altitude flight. Immediately after becoming airborne the pilot called for landing instructions. He was cleared for immediate landing.

2. Just before touching down I noticed fire coming from the port wing. As the aircraft touched down the left wheel collapsed and flames burst from the left side of the aircraft. The aircraft swung off the runway to the left.

3. Upon seeing the plane crash land I immediately dispatched the crash trucks, ambulance and notified all concerned.

J. E. Burchelder
J. E. BURCHELDER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Flying Control Officer.

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(GAD 55-4-884)(24-4-44)(AC-42-37789)(B-178)



(OAB-65-2-386) (24-4-44) (AC-42-37789) (0-17)