

RESTRICTED

ACCIDENT No. _____

12-6-44

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

45-10-15-533

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

107
4

(1) Place 8 1/2 miles SW of Sezanne, France (2) Date 15 October 1944 (3) Time 0815
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-26B-15 (5) A. F. No. 41-39196 (6) Station AAF Station A-55
 Organization: (7) 9th B.D., Ninth AF (8) 416 Bomb (L) (9) 670 Bomb (L)
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

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)
P	Leishman, Samuel F.	Pilot	0-758019	2nd Lt.	2501	AO	Ninth AF	Fatal	None
G	Siracusa, Joseph F.	Gunner	32873602	Sgt	2820	AO	Ninth AF	Fatal	None
G	Shampron, Eugene H.	Gunner	13097542	Sgt	2820	AO	Ninth AF	Fatal	None

PERSONS CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Leishman, Samuel F. (21) 0-758019 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 18 (24) AO
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) 9th B.D., Ninth AF (26) 416 Bomb (L) (27) 670 Bomb (L) (28) AAF Station A-55
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) 9th B.D., Ninth AF (30) 416 Bomb (L) (31) 670 Bomb (L) (32) AAF Station A-55
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 11/3/43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 11/3/43 Instrument rating (37) 5/19/44
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

First Pilot Hours:
 (at the time of this accident)
 (38) This type A-26 4:25 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 13:05
 (39) This model A-26B 4:25 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 0:00
 (40) Last 90 days 27:15 (44) Night time last 6 months -
 (41) Total 478:15 (45) Night time last 30 days -

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

F amw 12-9

DAMAGE	(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>W 5</u>	Complete Loss
(47) Engine(s) <u>W 5 W 5</u>	Complete Loss
(48) Propeller(s) <u>W 5 W 5</u>	Complete Loss

(50) Weather at the time of accident 400 feet ceiling. Visibility 200 yards due to rain and haze

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident Unknown

(52) Cleared from AAF Station A-55 (53) To AAF Station A-55 (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Local/formation training flight

(56) Nature of accident Collision in full flight with objects other than aircraft

(57) Cause of accident Weather

(58) Has the Form 54 been submitted? NO

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10
80
73
87

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

NARRATIVE:

On October 15, 1944, Lt. Leishman took off at 0648, a wing man in a six ship formation. Shortly after take off bad weather moved in closing the field. When the formation let down through the overcast Lt. Leishman lost the flight. All ships were diverted to A-61, but Lt. Leishman could not be contacted. At 0845 ship #41-39296 piloted by Lt. Leishman crashed eight and five tenths miles from Sezanne on Nagent-Sur-Siene Highway.

The ship struck a large tree in a bank and about a thirty degree dive. It is apparent the pilot was making an instrument descent turning to the left for better forward visibility when he struck the side of the hill.

The terrain in the vicinity of the crash is hilly and very wooded.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Error of technique. The pilot let down lower than a safe altitude on instruments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommended that all pilots should be cautioned not to exceed a minimum safe altitude to clear the highest point or object in the vicinity in an instrument let down.

INCLOSURES:

- Inclosure #1 - Statement of Witness.
- Inclosure #2 - Statement of Engineering Officer.
- Inclosure #3 - Photographs.

APPROVED:

Theodore R. Aylsworth
THEODORE R. AYLSWORTH
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

Signature

William J. ...
WILLIAM J. ... Lt. Col., Air Corps.

Robert A. Clark
ROBERT A. CLARK, Major, Air Corps.

Richard F. Shaffer
RICHARD F. SHAFFER, Capt., Air Corps.

Date 22 October 1944

No 505 5-43/10W/9093

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22 October 1944

Statement of Mr. Raile Lemaire, Forest Guard.

Airplane accident on the 15 October 1944 at 08:45 A.M., I was on road N 51, occupied in my work when I heard an airplane coming from the south, flying low because of mist. I stopped to watch it. When I heard the cracking and breaking of the branches of the trees. At this moment I saw the airplane which was at my height and above the road, motors running quickly, full speed. I threw myself on stomach in the ditch that borders the road. I saw the airplane bank and then plunge into the woods in which it crashed some meters from me. Right away after it hit the ground I heard the cry of a man and suddenly the airplane took fire. Wishing to aid them, I had to crawl on my stomach because of the explosions of the Machine-gun bullets caused by the heat. It was like a machine-gun barrage. I couldn't approach the sides of the plane until the fire was over. Then I saw the three bodies half burnt.

I certify that this is a TRUE INTERPRETATION:

Robert A. Clark
ROBERT A. CLARK,
Major, Air Corps,
Ass't Operations Officer.

Incl. #1

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670TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

APO # 140,
19 October 1944.

STATEMENT

Airplane No. 41-39196 was to the best of my knowledge in safe mechanical condition. Both Preflight and Daily inspections had been pulled before the ship was released for flight. Minor discrepancies were noted on Form 1A.

Robert J. Kehres
ROBERT J. KEHRES,
Captain, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

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Final 4-

RESEARCH

Plot #3



GAP-27-28-416-48-0001



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HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
Office of the Commanding Officer

APO 140, U.S. Army
23 October 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of AAF Form 14.

TO : Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division (M), APO 140,
U.S. Army.

Transmitted herewith is the AAF Form 14 and inclosures (in quadruplicate) on aircraft accident of Lt. Samuel P. Leishman in aircraft number 41-39196, A-26B-15, 15 October 1944.

360.33

For the Commanding Officer:



George Schenkein
GEORGE SCHENKEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Inclosures:

AAF Form 14 and inclosures (in quadruplicate).

360.33

1st Ind.

E-J-4

HEADQUARTERS 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M), APO 140, U. S. ARMY, 14 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U. S. Army.

Submitted in compliance with Memorandum 55-1, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, dated 22 March 1944.

For the Commanding General:

Richard S. Sanders
RICHARD S. SANDERS,
Brig. Gen., U.S.A.,
Chief of Staff.

4 Incls: n/c (1 cy ea w/d)

RESTRICTED

360.33

2nd Ind.

E-CSJ-3

HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, US Army.

26 NOV 1944

TO: Chief, Flying Safety, Army Air Forces, Winston-Salem 1, North Carolina.

Report and recommendation of Aircraft Accident committee.

For the Commanding General:

Harold Carter
for C.M. SEEBACH,
Colonel, AGD,
Adj. General.

4 Incls: (2 cys ea w/d)

3043

NAME OF PILOT

TYPE OF PLANE

ACCIDENT NUMBER

LEISHMAN, SAMUEL P.

A-26

45-18-15-533

CHARGED TO:

OUT IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT IN

Sydney Egan
Capt Chaddock

126
814

Capt Playford

11-30

Accident No. 45-10-15-583

Date

Checked by [Signature] 12-8-44

Analyzed by [Signature]

Copied for Wright
Field by No Copy

Notes Lt Arnold

3989: 10-440FS

5

3

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICES
WORLD WAR II RECORDS DIVISION

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND
INCIDENT REPORTS

1941 THRU 1948

(Filed by Fiscal Year - Beginning 1 January 1941)

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958

NWD by *Jawa* date *May 6, 1960*

MICROFILMED BY

SECURITY AND SERVICES BRANCH

AGO MICROFILMING JOB NR D-482-1

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

MICROPHOTOGRAPHER'S REPORT

1. RECORDS OF (Name of agency and sub-division)

2. BRIEF TITLE OF RECORDS

3. FILM SERIES OR JOB NO.

4. REEL NO.

D482-1

380

5. STARTS WITH

45-10-15-1

FLASH

6. INTERMEDIATE POINTS

2

3

4

5

6

7. ENDS WITH

45-10-17-525-

8. STARTED

9. FINISHED

10. TOTAL HOURS

11. TOTAL IMAGES

DATE

HOUR

DATE

HOUR

5/24-60

11³⁰

5/25/60

9:30

2509

12. PHOTOGRAPHED BY (Signature of camera operator)

Pauline R. Johnson & Le Roy J. Jackson

13. REPORT APPROVED BY (Signature of supervisor and date)