

Accident No.

44-3-1-523

Date

Checked by

N.M.

4-11-44

Analyzed by

J.M.C.

4-14-44

Copied for Wright

Field by

Notes

1225:5-43

Accident No.

Pilot's Name

Lancaster

Nature Group

06 Landing

Specific Nature

32 Undershot

Underlying Nature

67 misc. landed short to use up
all the runway

Cause Group

60% 01 Judgment

Specific Cause

13 momentary lapse of
mental efficiency

Underlying Cause

12 Lack of alertness

Cause Group

40% 35 Report

Specific Cause

87 Inherent Characteristics

Underlying Cause

89 Runways - misc -
couldn't tell the end of runway

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

ACCIDENT No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
A. A. F. STATION 342
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

44-3-1-523

01-901

(1) Place AAF Airrome, Fairwood Coman, S. Wales (2) Date 1 March 1944 (3) Time 16:00
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-7C ²⁰⁹ (5) A. F. No. 42-7969 (6) Station AAF Station 342
Organization: (7) S. AFCC & S. AF (8) 495 Str. Trnz. (9) 551st S.E. Ftr. Trnz.
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL FTS FTS

DUTY	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. Lancaster, Raymond B.	P	0-666961	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	S. AFCC	No Inj.	

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED
TO "RESTRICTED"
BY AUTHORITY OF E. J. ODF
BY JG DATE 7/2/45

RECEIVED
HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCE
APR 5 1944
OFFICE OF FLIGHT
SAFETY

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Lancaster, Raymond B. (21) 0-666961 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 01 (24) A.C.
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th F.C., 8th A.F. (26) 359th Ftr. (27) 370th Ftr. (28) AAF Station
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) S. AFCC & S. AF (30) 495 Ftr. Tr. (31) Ho. & H. (32) AAF Station
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) P (34) 10 NOV 42 Present rating (35) P (36) 10 Nov 42 Instrument rating (37) _____
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:
(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type 288.8 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 214
(39) This model 38.4 (43) Instrument time last 30 days _____
(40) Last 90 days 91.9 (44) Night time last 6 months _____
(41) Total 405.4 (45) Night time last 30 days _____

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NF

DAMAGE			(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	M	4	Both wings, lower fuselage
(47) Engine(s)	M	4	Engine
(48) Propeller(s)	M	4	Propeller

(50) Weather at the time of accident CAVU E F 1
(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
(52) Cleared from Atcham (53) To Middle Wallow (54) Kind of clearance Cross Country
(55) Pilot's mission Cross Country to Temporary Duty
(56) Nature of accident Landing accident --- Pilot landed short of runway in soft ground. Landing gear collapsed.
(57) Cause of accident landing short
(58) U/R not submitted

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13-80
R. J. H.
5-23-44

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

ACCIDENT COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT

On March 1, 1944, at approximately 15:55 hours, Lt. Lancaster, while making a normal approach, landed short of the runway, tore off the left oleo and bellied in.

This pilot, never having landed at the airfield in question and noting the runway to be comparatively short, attempted to land as short as possible. He failed to observe that what appeared to be a runway extension was in reality cinder fill.

Upon touching down, the left wheel caught in the soft fill causing the left oleo to break off. The left wing then dug in and the starboard oleo gave way causing the plane to belly in.

Upon investigation of the airdrome, it was noted that a white line was painted on the ends of all runways to indicate the part of the runway to be used for landing.

In our opinion, had this pilot used the proper precautionary procedure before landing at this airfield, he might have discerned the cinder fill at the end; However, investigation showed that this fill appeared to be a runway extension in every respect.

Pilot Error-----35%
Other-----65%

Recommend that no further action be taken against this pilot.

Signature

Donald G. Rennie
(Investigating Officer)

DONALD G. RENNIE, Major, A.C.

Ervin L. Miller
ERVIN L. MILLER, Major, A.C.

Frank E. McCauley
FRANK E. MCCAULEY, Capt., P.C.

Date 7 March 1944

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STATEMENT

On March 1st 1944 at 15.55 hours, I was landing P-47D2 No: 427969 at Fairwood Common airfield after a scheduled flight.


Having never landed at this airfield before and noticing that the runway was comparatively short for this type of aircraft, I attempted to land on the very end of the runway so as to utilize its full length.

What I thought was the end of the runway was in reality an extension of earth and cinders of the same colour as the runway.

When my undercarriage came in contact with this soft substance, my left landing gear was torn away and subsequently the right landing gear collapsed, letting the aircraft slide down the runway on its underside.

I had my shoulder harness locked and so was unhurt.

March 1st, 1944.


Raymond B. Lancaster, Jr.,
1st.Lt. Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

To :

The Commanding Officer,

RAF Station,

Fairwood Common

5

Subject:- Crashed Aircraft. (Thunderbolt)

Sir,

I have to submit for your information the following report.

At Fairwood Common on the 1st March 1944 at 1500hrs
I was on duty in the checkered van at the end of Runway 34
whilst flying was in progress. At 1555 hrs a Thunderbolt
aircraft commenced to make his approach preparatory to
landing, the runway was clear and free from obstructions.
The aircraft made a good approach but was a little too low
and touched down on the ashes before the commencement of
the runway. One of the wheels came off and stopped about
50yds down, on the port side of the runway. The aircraft
carried on down the runway on its underside for approximately
400yds.

I have the honour to be

Fairwood Common,

Sir,

2nd, March 1944.

Your obedient servant,

A. W. Cheney, S. A. C.

Incl 3

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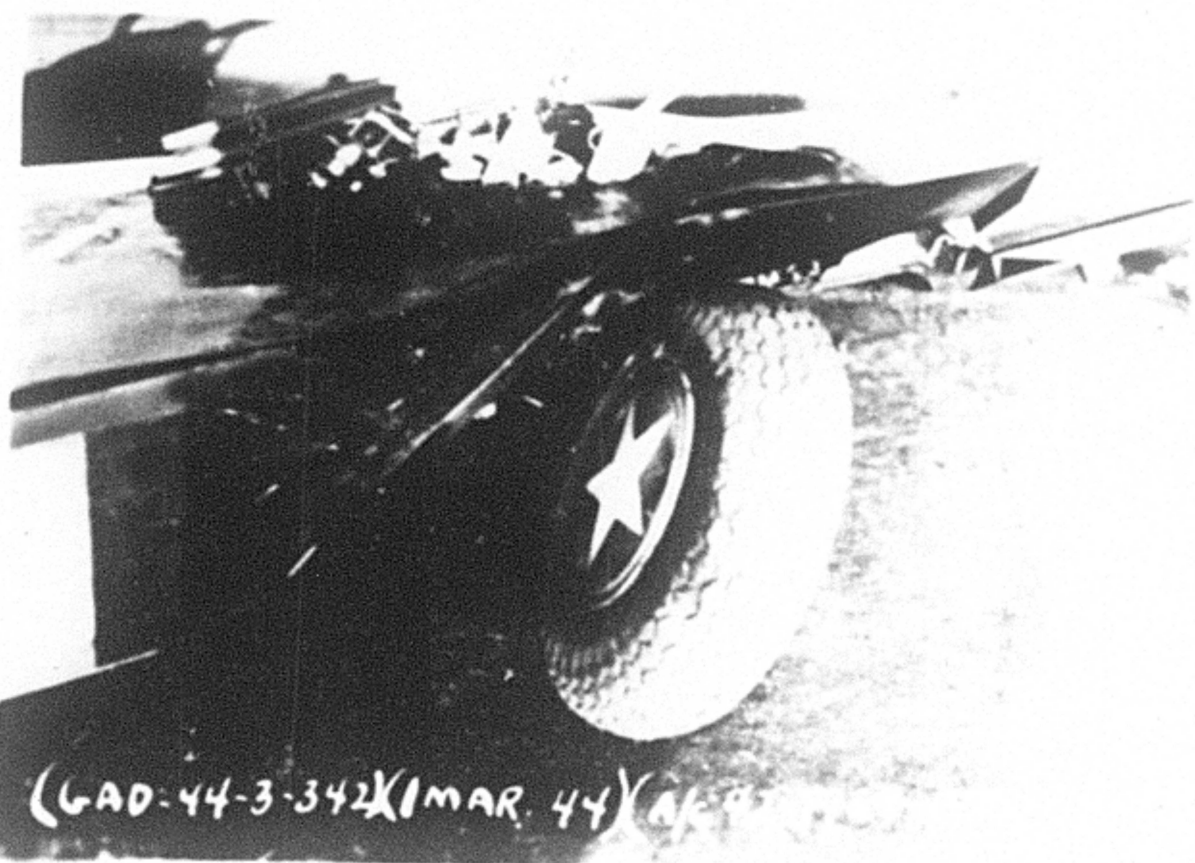
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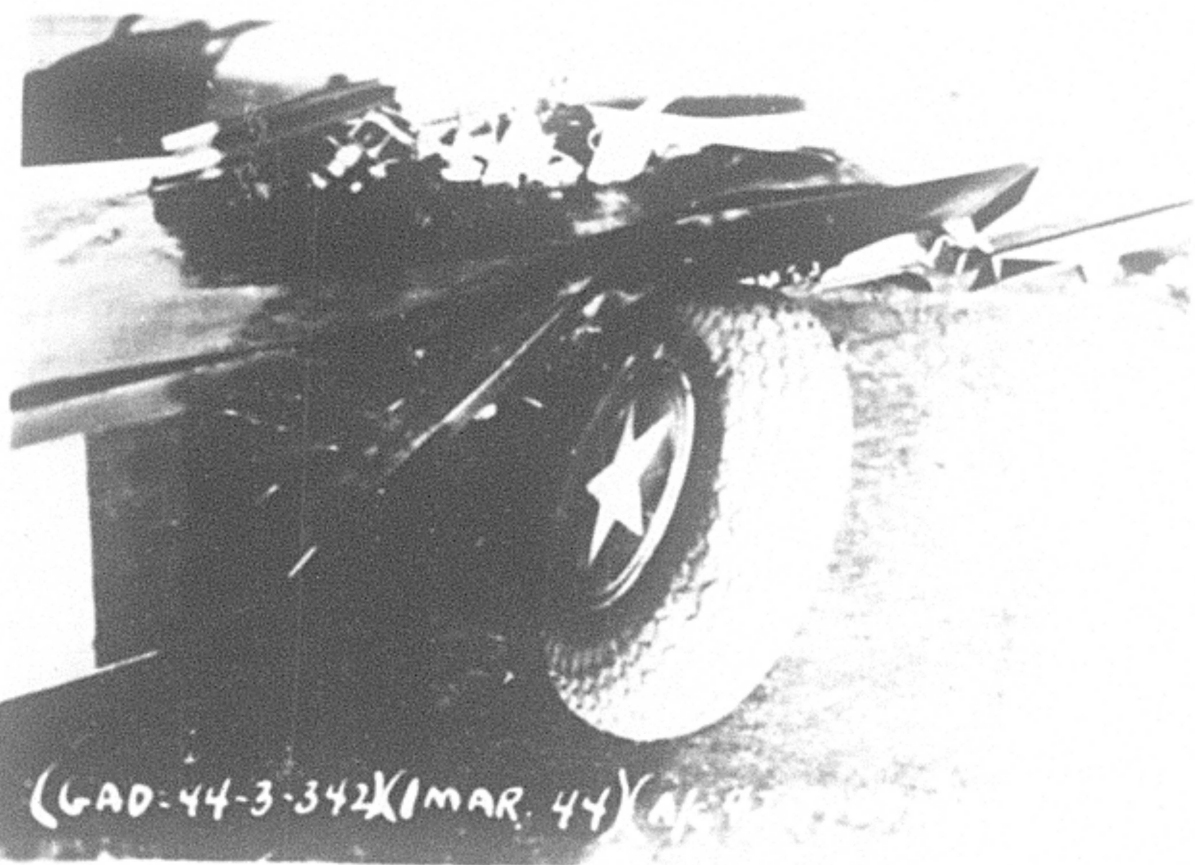


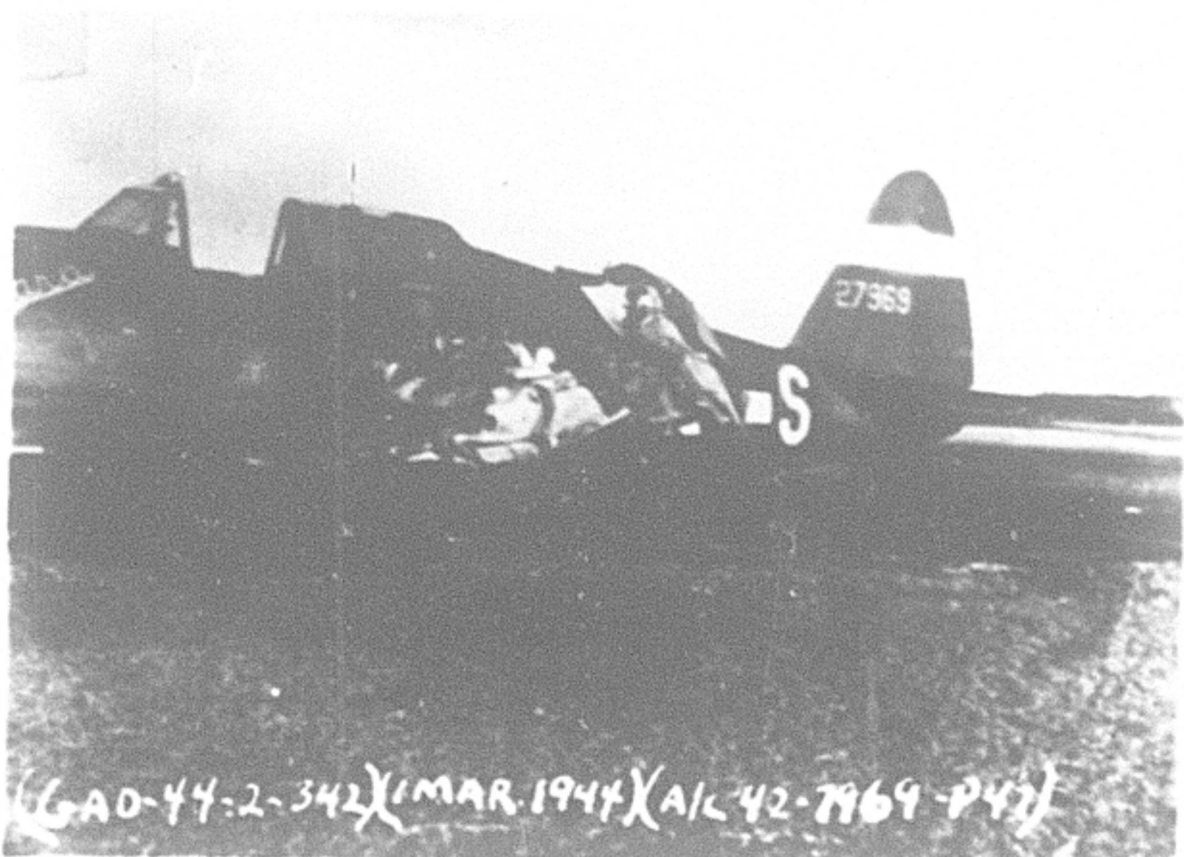
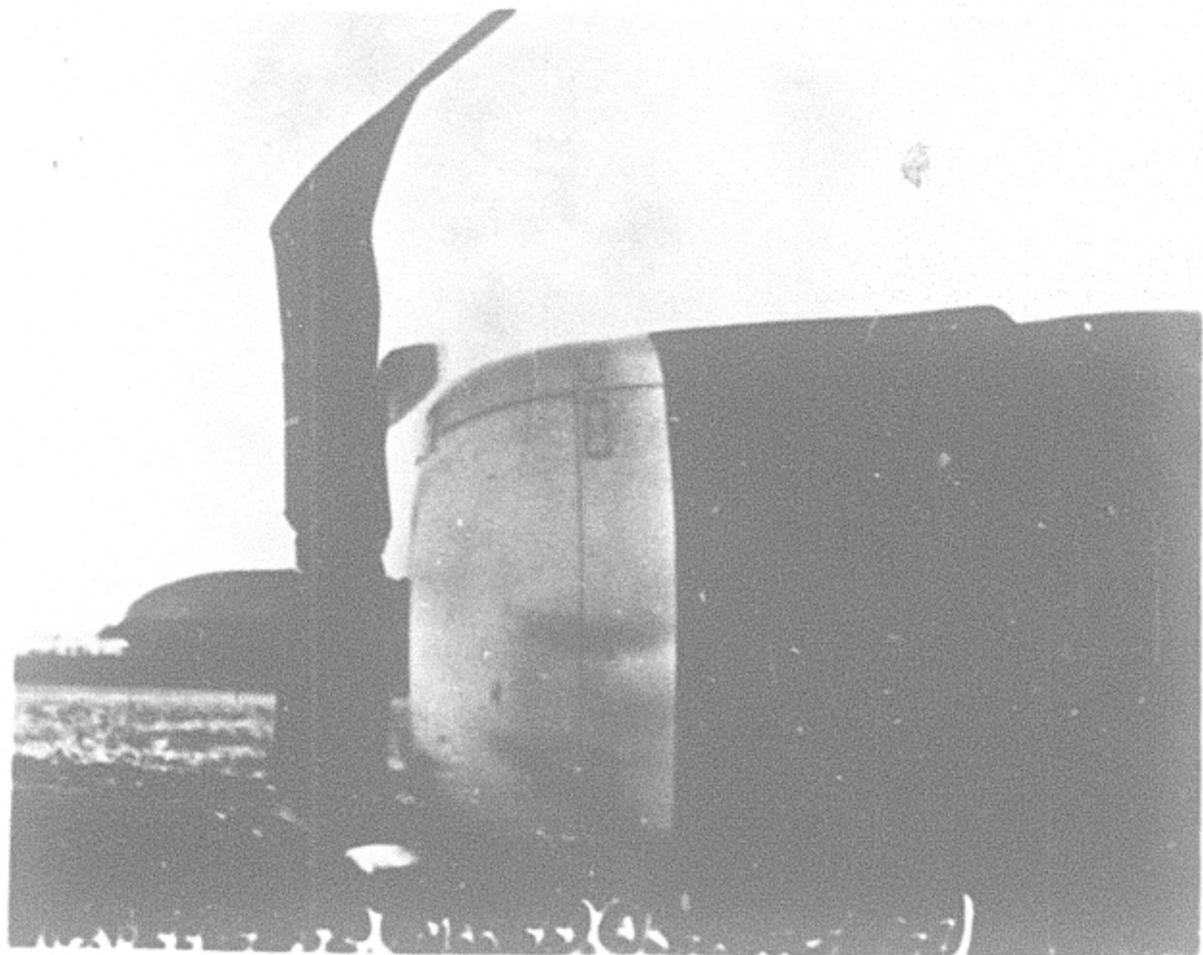
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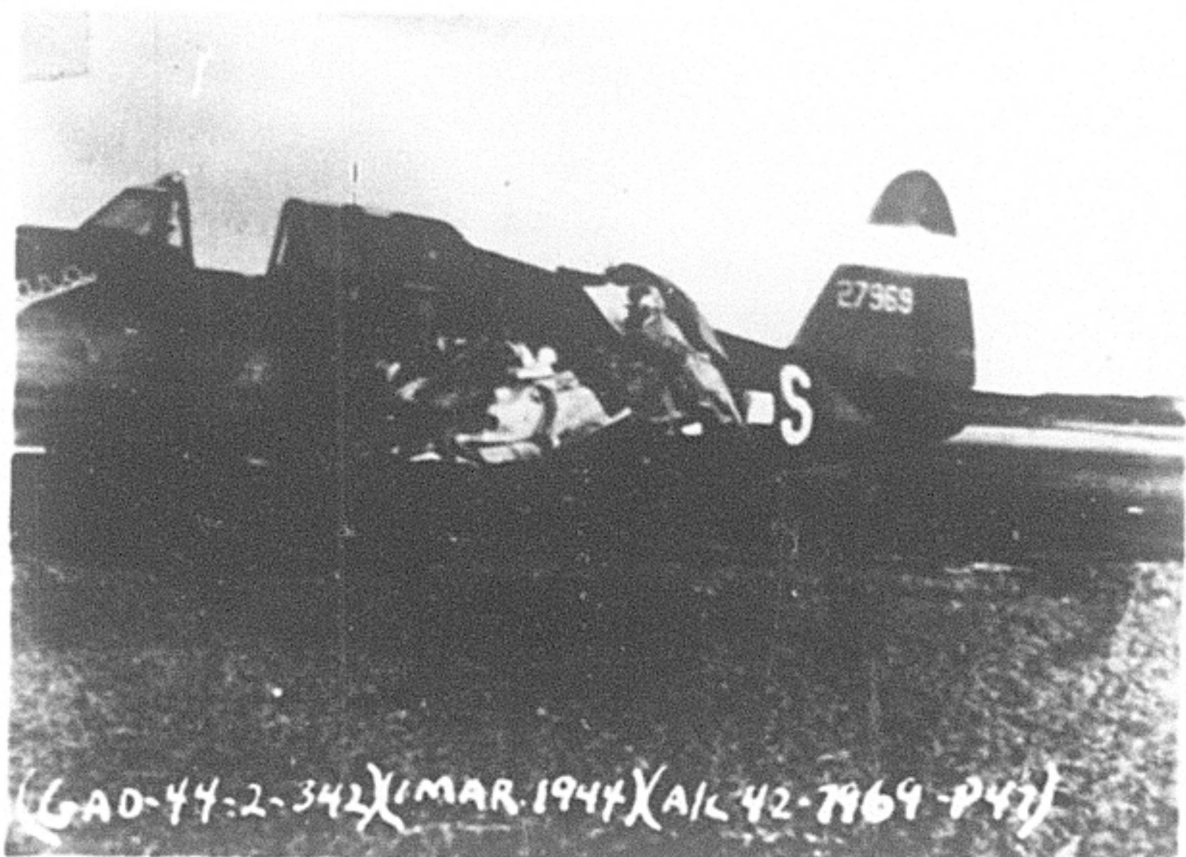
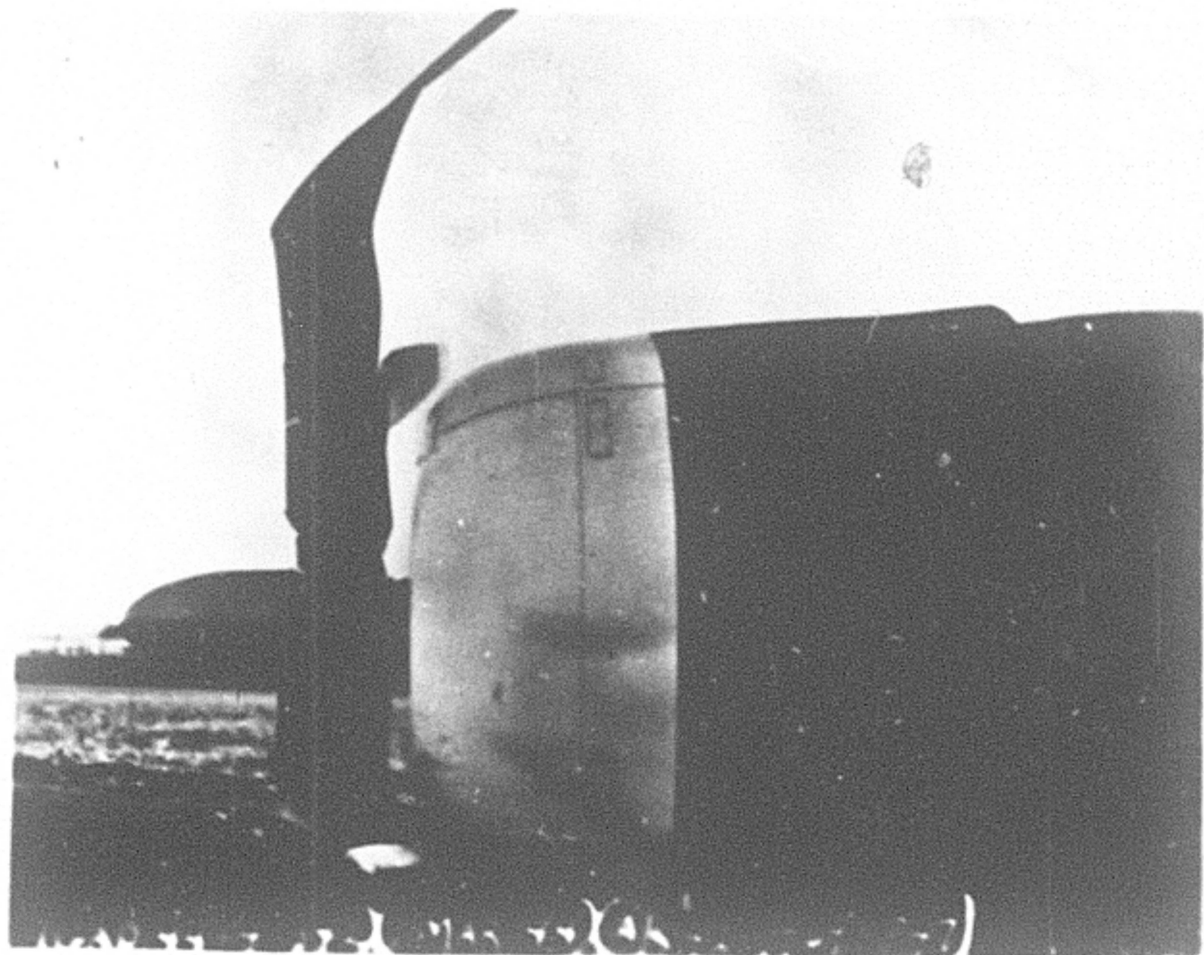


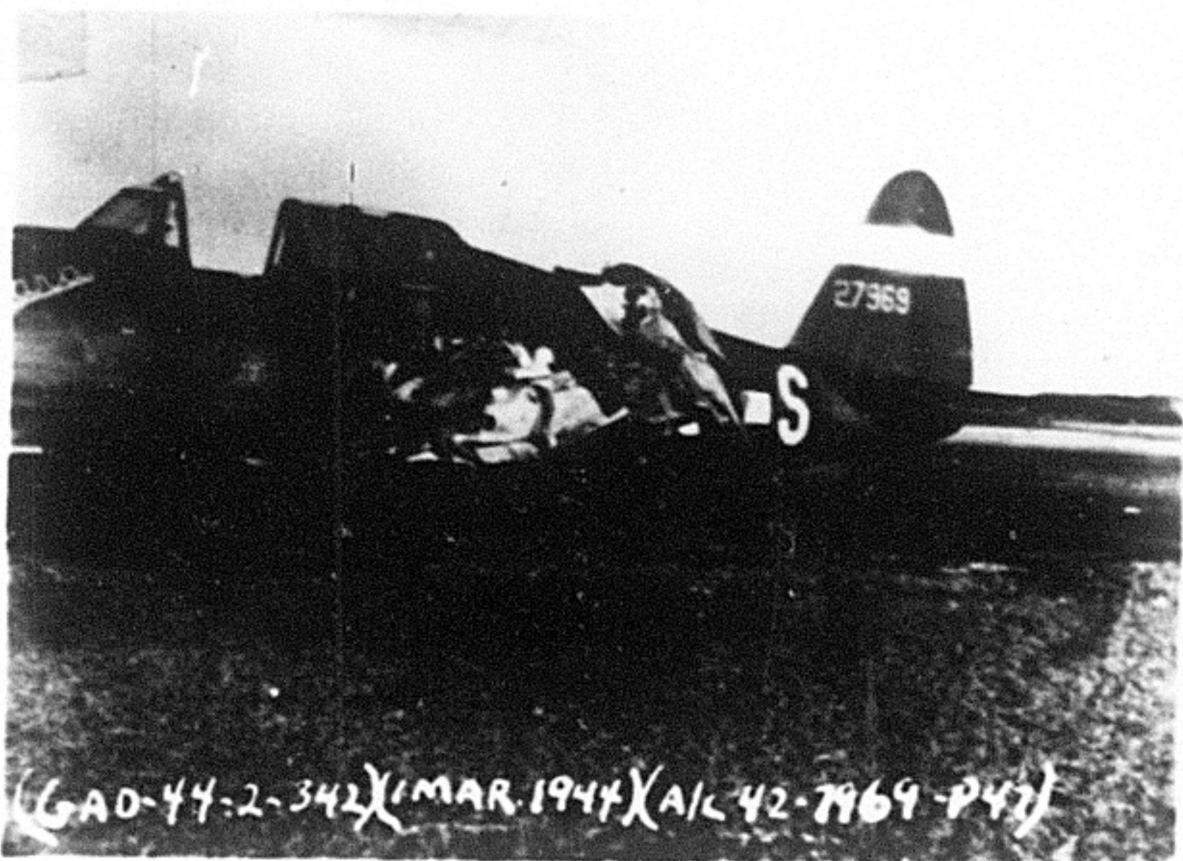
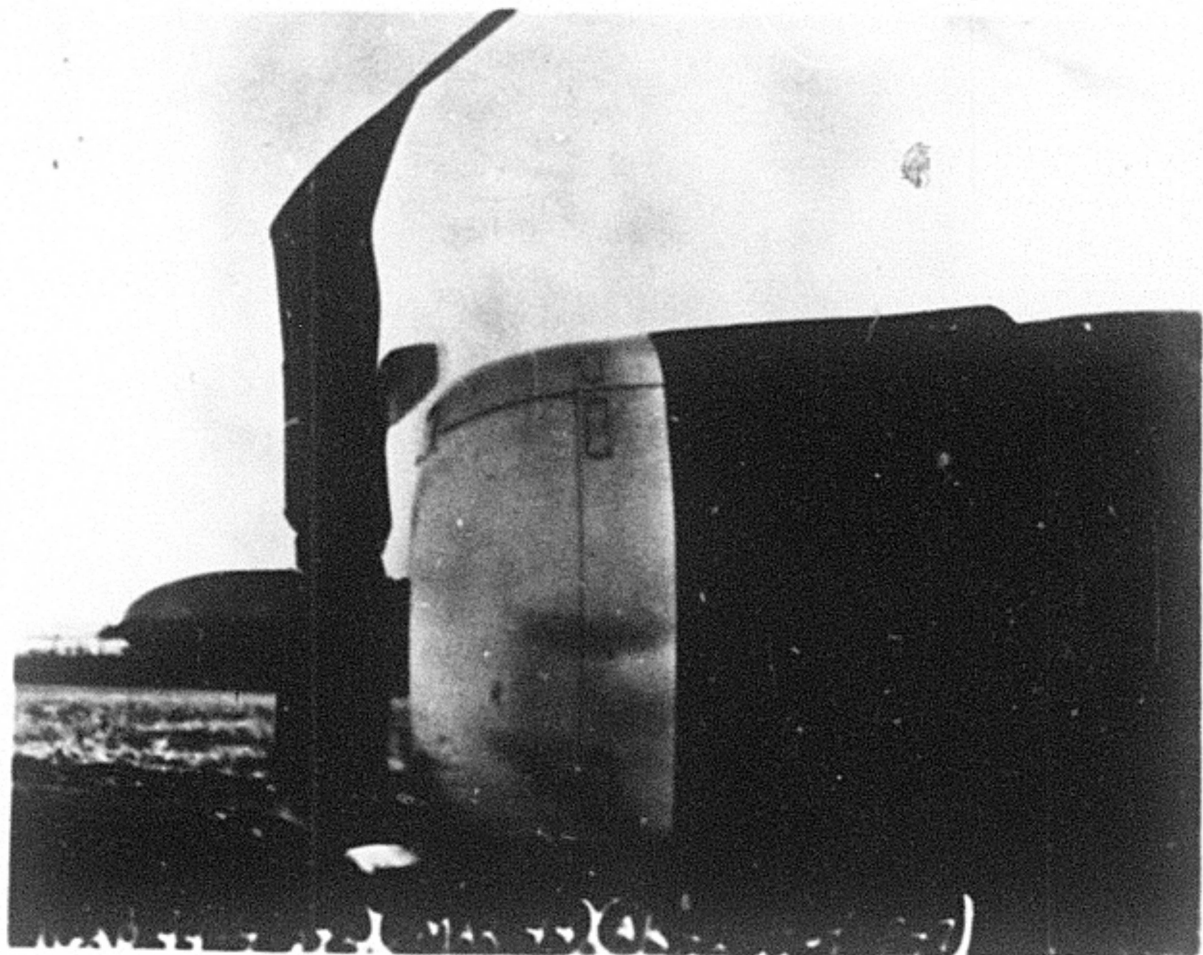
(GAD-44-3-342)(MAR. 44)(AK 44-111)











(GAD-44-2-342) (MAR. 1944) (A/C 42-7969-P47)