

Accident No. 4-2-4-4-518

Date

Checked by [Signature] 2-9-42

Analyzed by [Signature] 2-11-42

Copied for Wright  
Field by [Signature] 0

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

06 (Nature of Cause) Landing

35 (Specific Nature) nose up

79 (Underlying Nature) misuse of controls

82 (Cause Group) 100% Pilot error Technique

87 (Specific Cause) lack of experience in this type

11 (Underlying Cause) physical reaction to slow speed

WAR DEPARTMENT  
R. A. F. STATION LILANEDR  
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

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(1) Place R.A.F. Station, Llanbedr (2) Date June 4, 1943 (3) Time 11:10  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model Spitfire (5) A. F. No. 26-530 (6) Station A.A.F. Station F-342  
 Organization: (7) 8th FC 8th AF (8) 6th Ftr. Wing (9) 2025th Gunnery Flight  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DATE	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)
01	P. Funcheon, Donald M.	P	0-667687	2nd Lt.	20-101	A.C.	8AF 8FC	None	----

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Funcheon, Donald M. (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (21) 0-667687 (Serial number) (22) 2nd Lt. (Rank) (23) 20-1 (Personnel class) (24) A.C. (Branch)  
 Assigned (25) 8th F.C. 8th A.F. (Command and Air Force) (26) 6th Ftr. Wg. (Group) (27) Hq. & Hq. Squadron (Squadron) (28) A.A.F. Station F-342 (Station)  
 Attached for flying (29) 8th F.C. 8th A.F. (Command and Air Force) (30) 6th Ftr. Wg. (Group) (31) 2025th Gunnery Flight (Squadron) (32) RAF Station Llanbedr (Station)  
 Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 12-13-42 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 12-13-42 (Date) Instrument rating (37) 7-3-43 (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:  
(at the time of this accident)  
 (38) This type 13:00 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 7-10-43  
 (39) This model 13:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 7-10-43  
 (40) Last 90 days 35:00 (44) Night time last 6 months 7-10-43  
 (41) Total 320:00 (45) Night time last 30 days 7-10-43

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>M 4</u>	Port and starboard undercarriage, port and starboard wings, underneath fuselage, propeller, shock-load test engine.
(47) Engine(s) <u>5</u>	
(48) Propeller(s) <u>5</u>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident Good  
 (51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
 (52) Cleared from AAF Sta. F-342 (53) To RAF Sta. Llanbedr (54) Kind of clearance Direct  
 (55) Pilot's mission Cross-country direct  
 (56) Nature of accident Landing accident, resulting in nose-up at end of runway  
 (57) Cause of accident Swinging on landing due to cross wind

*Incident Pilot inco-Technique 26-56-49  
02-17-44*



DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

ACCIDENT COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT

This pilot displayed poor judgement in trying to land on the wheels in a strong crosswind in this type of aircraft. Being inexperienced in this aircraft, he handled it as he would an Army fighter ship and did not bring the aircraft in on three points.

When the wind caught the tail and swung it sideways, the pilot was unable to correct the swing and the aircraft veered uncontrolled, collapsing the undercarriage.

Pilot error 100%

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

Signature *Melvin P. McNick*  
for **MELVIN P. MC NICK**, Acting Officer Lt. Col.  
*William R. Edger*  
**WILLIAM R. EDGER**, Major  
*Walter J. Hollander*  
**WALTER J. HOLLANDER**, Capt.

Date: **14 July 1943**

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

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I, 2nd Lt. Donald M. Funcheon, O-667687, Hq & Hq Sq, Sixth Fighter Wing, certify that, I was on an authorized flight from A.A.F. Station F-342 to R.A.F. Station Llanbedr, Merionethshire, North Wales.

I came in with wheels down and checked on my approach. Was going to make a wheel landing for there was a cross wind from the right. I hit the ground with wheels and bounced up and came down three points, a little side-ways. I tried to straighten the ship out with brake but it didn't stop turning. It continued to turn so I gave it throttle to straighten it out, it did not help. Left wheel collapsed, then right.

*Donald M. Funcheon*  
DONALD M. FUNCHEON,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

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2025TH GUNNERY FLIGHT (PROV)  
Office of the Operations Officer  
R.A.F. Station Ilanbedr

June 4, 1943

~~SECRET~~

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I certify that the following is a list of damaged parts on Spitfire No. BL-530 due to an aircraft accident at this Station on June 4, 1943, at 1110 hours:

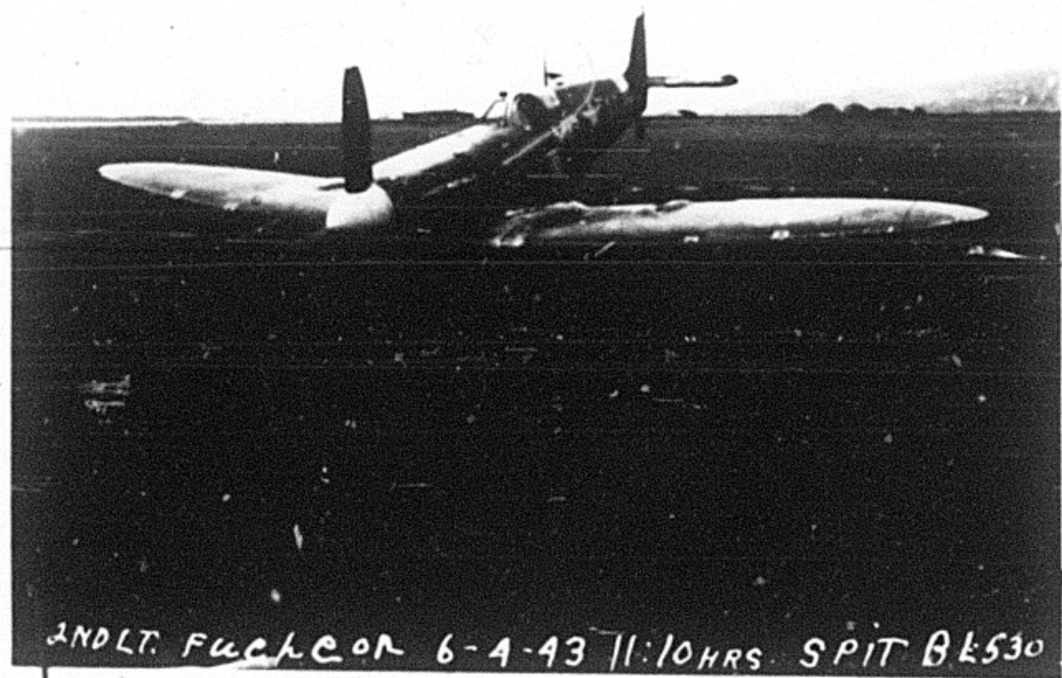
Right and Left Wings  
Undercarriage legs complete  
Bottom of fuselage caved in  
Prop - and possible engine change pending shockload test.

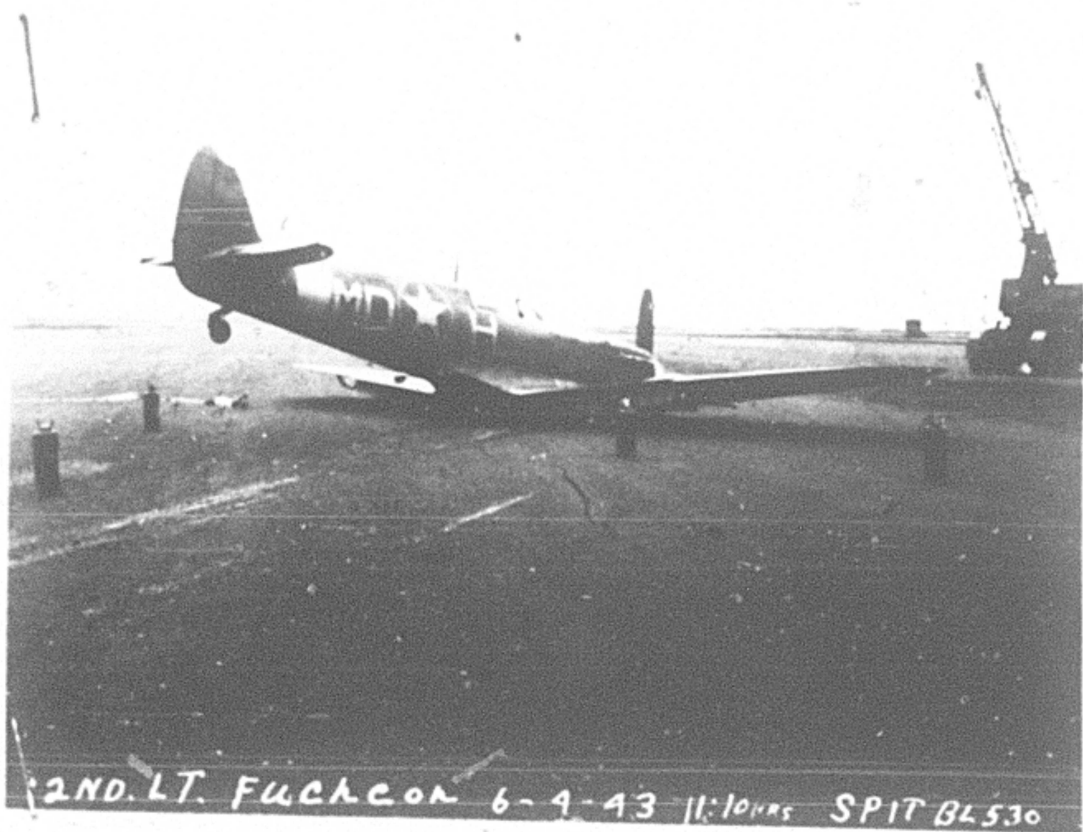
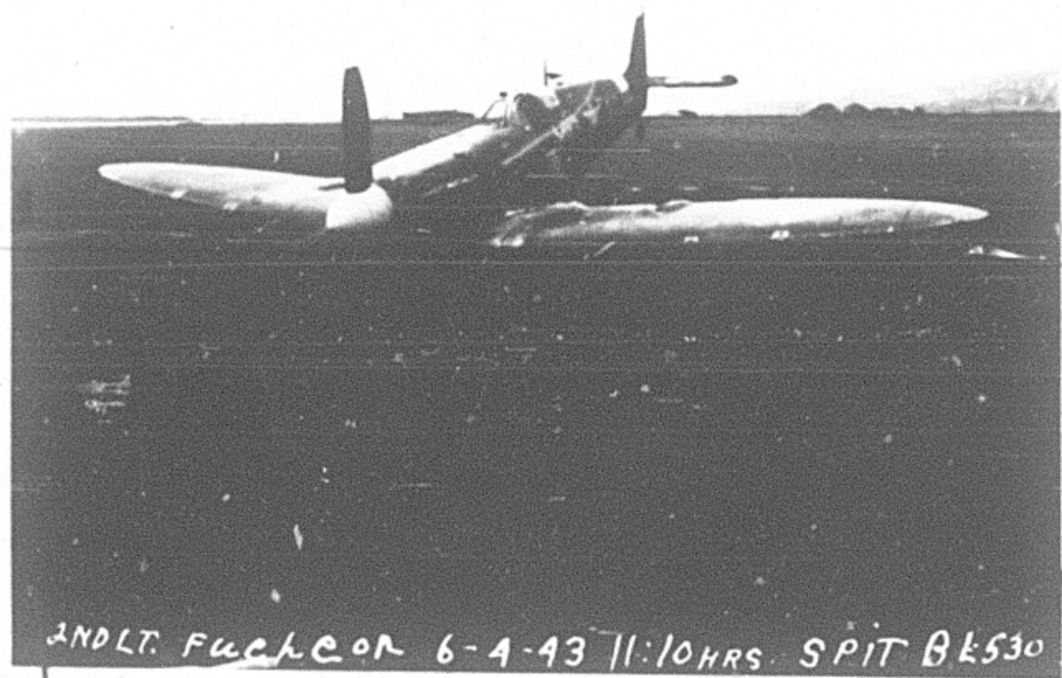
*Norman V. Chabtree*  
NORMAN V. CHABTREE,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

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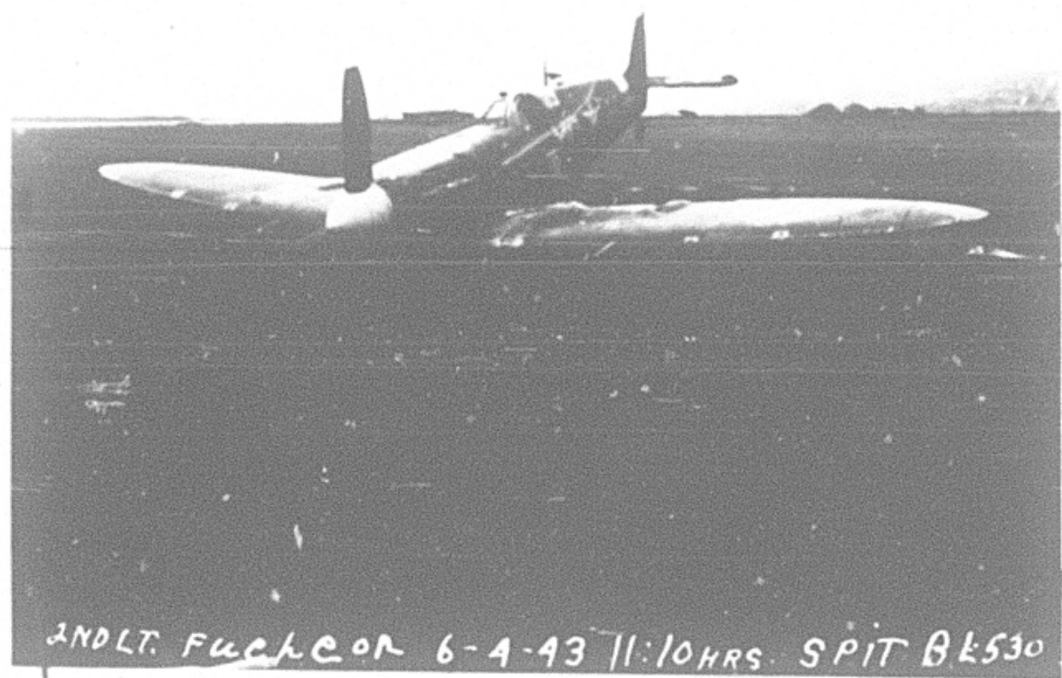
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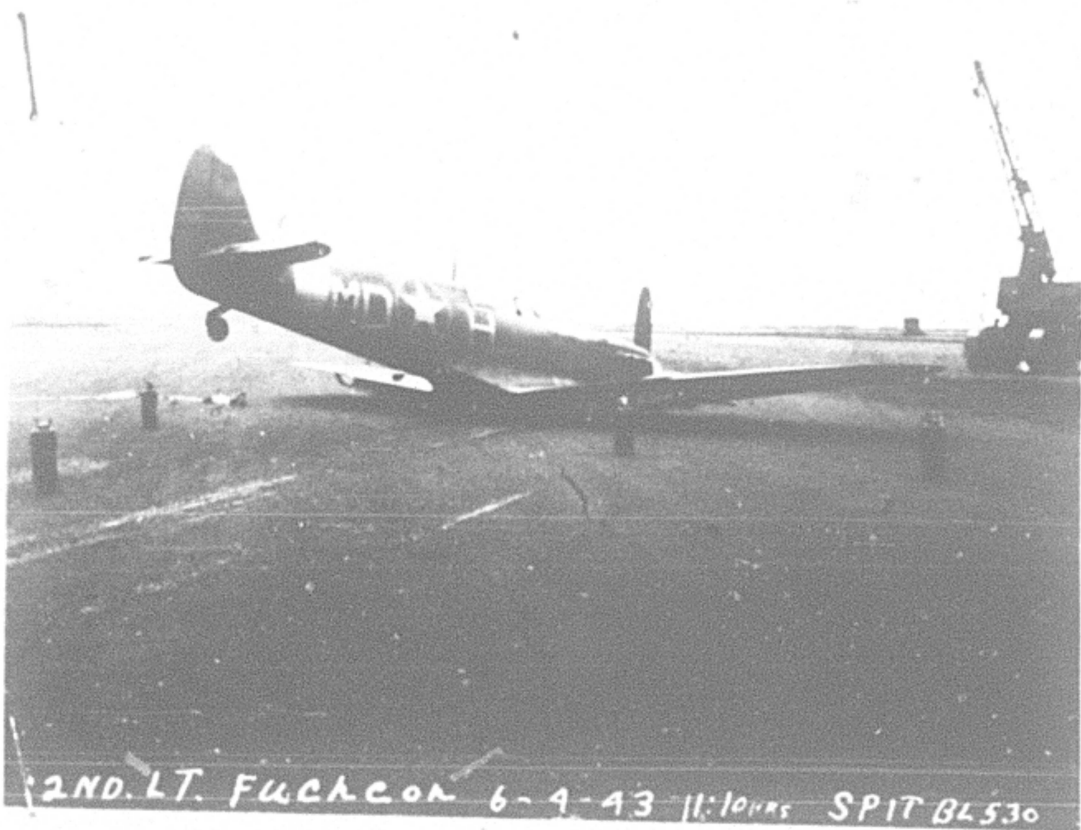








2ND LT. FUCHERON 6-4-43 11:10 HRS. SPIT BL 530



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