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	ace Tampa Bay, 4 miles	I of NecDill	Field (2) Dat	. 8 Octo	ber 1943	(3)	Time .1740	BVT T
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	Godfrey, Donald 3.	P 0-7316	Action in the Control of the Control	01	AG	HIBCRAF	Patal T	None
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#### DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

A B-26021 airplane # 41-35054 took off from MacDill Field at 1738EWT on an administrative flight to Godman Field, Kentucky. Before taking off, the pilot made the usual engine check and was cleared to take off on Runway # 4. When the ship reached a speed of approximately 130 miles per hour, the plane began to fly and the pilot called for flaps and wheels up. As he started to reduce power after take-off at an altitude of approximately fifty (50) feet, the left engine started going out. The pilot advanced the left throttle with no response and instructed the co-pilot to feather the left prop. At that time, he had approximately 150 miles per hour air speed and about 100 feet altitude. Peter 0. Knight airport, Tampa, Florida, was about 60 degrees to the left of his line of flight. The pilot decided he could not make it into Peter O. Knight Field so he started a gradual shallow bank of 10 degrees to the right with the ship already trimmed for single engine flight. At this time, he was pulling about 45 inches of manifold pressure on the right engine. Also, at this time, the pilot was satisfied that everything was going along normal for single engine operation. He was making a right turn to get back into MacDill Field for an emergency landing. The pilot's next move was to call MacDill Field Tower and as he was ready to do so, his air speed dropped from 145 to 120. The pilot realised that a critical condition existed and called for a crash landing in the water. The pilot states that before the plane hit the water, it was completely stalled and also at no time, did he have more than 150 feet altitude.

#### FINDINGS:

- 1. Left engine failed shortly after take-off. Comes of engine failure undetermined as the engines were not recovered by salvage operation.
- 2. Examination of the landing gear by the engineering officer of the 62nd Sub-Depot, MacDill Field, disclosed the main landing gear to be in a down and locked position. Examination of the nose gear was not made because the nose section forward of the wing was not recovered from the water.
  - 3. The pilot states that he gave no orders to drop the gear.
  - 4. The airplane was stalled before it crashed into the Bay.

#### RECONGENDATIONS:

None.

#### RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the opinion of this Board that the direct cause of the accident is due to the landing gear being put in the down position by persons unknown.



Date 20 October 1943

Signature July Johnston

1724, F. JOHNSTON MAJOR, Air Corps

Mott N. Major, Air Corps

John C Mayer

THOMAS A. CASVELL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

Statement of lst Lt. Arlie G. Watkinson, 0-731708, Pilot, and 2d Lt. William H. Woessner, 0-861964, Sq. Eng. Officer, passenger 574th Bomb Sq., 391st Bomb Gp.
Goodman Field, Fort Knox, Kentucky

I taxied out to runway No. 4. Before going into take-off position, I made the usual engine check; magnetos and power were checked. I got 2700 rpm out of the right engine, and the left engine got to about 2650 rpm. There was no drop in rpm on any of the magnetos. I proceeded for the take-off, All the way down the runway I had approximately 2650 rpm. When I got to 130 mph, the plane left the ground. On the take-off, the auto-rich and fuel booster pumps were on. I started the procedure of pulling up the flaps and wheels, reducing power, etc. Just as I started to reduce the power after the take-off, the left tachometer dropped to 1800 rpm without any indication from the motor that anything was wrong. Altitude at this time was approximately fifty feet, if that much. The engine started going out, and the co-pilot asked if I wanted the engine feathered. I pushed the left throttle forward, but got no response. I instructed the co-pilot to feather the engine.

I began looking for a place to sit the plane down with some degree of safety. At this time I had approximately 145 to 150 mph air speed and about one hundred feet altitude. Peter 0. Knight Airport was to my left about sixty degrees. I decided I could not make it into Peter 0. Knight Airport, so started a gradual right turn with the ship trimmed for a single engine flight. I was going along in this right turn fairly well, probably using approximately a ten degree bank at the most, with about forty-five inches manifold pressure on the right engine. Everything seemed to be going smoothly and I figured I would be able to make it back to MacDill on some other rumway. Just as I was getting ready to call the tower, I had the feeling that the plane just dropped out from under me. Air speed dropped from 145 to 120. I bellowed out "Crash landing", and started for the water. Before the plane hit the water, it was completely stalled out. At no time was I above 150 feet.

Arlie G. Watkinson, 0-731708 lst Lt., A.C., Pilot

William H. Woessner, 0-861964 2d Lt., A.C., Sq. Eng. Officer Passenger

RESTRUTED

STATEMENT

October 9, 1943.

I was in a take-off position on the North-east runway and I first naticed a B-26 Bomber just to the right of the Control Tower at an altitude of approximately 300 feet, to the best of my knowledge, and that the left motor was completely out and the propeller full-feathered. I realized that the pilot was in trouble and attempting a forced landing. I thought that he was going to make it on the North-South runway of Peter O. Knight Airport. He continued this approach until about 100 yards or more of the South end of the North-South runway when the ship began to drift very fast to the right. The plane was in a stalling altitude from the time he passed the end of the North-South runway and continued so until it crashed into the water southeast of Peter O. Knight field. Upon striking the water it bounced approximately 50 feet across the water and nosed over immediately, sinking in about three or four minutes.

This statement is made merely from a pilot's standpoint of fiew to the ratio of glide of airplanes, and in my opinion the plane could have made Peter O. Knight field under the existing circumstances.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Charles A. Preston, Jr. /t/ CHARLES A. PRESTON, Jr. 1131 South 30th Street Birmingham, Alabama.

#### STATEMENT

October 9, 1943.

We were taxiing down the runway toward the north-west end of Peter O. Enight field at which time we noticed a B-26 at approximately 400 feet altitude. We noted that the left motor was out and that the pilet was apparently attempting to land on Peter O. Enight field. Although headed for the field at the last 400 or 500 yards he drifted fast out into the Bay. It seemed to me that the pilot stalled the ship at approximately 25 feet above the water at which time the ship hit the water and turned on its back. The ship sank in approximately four or five minutes.

/s/ Basil P. Autrey /t/ BASIL P. AUTREY 1131 South 30th St. Birmingham, Ala.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Major, Air Corps.

574TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) 391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF-GODMAN FIELD

Fort Knox, Ky., 8 October 1943.

OPERATIONS ORDERS)

NO.

157 )

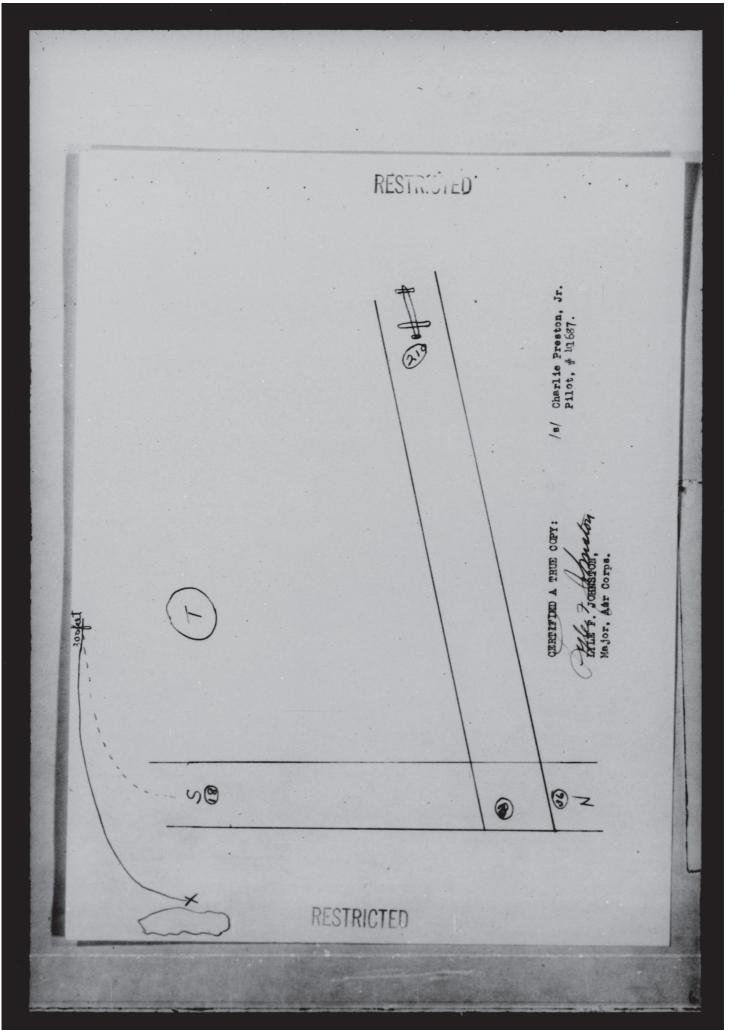
lst Lt. A. G. Watkinson, 0731708, AC, pilot in a B-26C21 AAF No. 41-35054, with lst Lt. A. J. Seiller, 0-731683, AC, co-pilot; 2nd Lt. D.C. Godfrey, 0-741257, AC, Bombardier-Navigator; 2nd Lt W. H. Woessner, 0-261964, passenger; S/Sgt. J. T. Hardwick, 34269021, radio-gunner; Sgt. C. H. Hey, Jr., 33225486, crew chief and S/Sgt. W. A. Dailey, 12139190, passenger will take off o/a 0730 on a cross-country flight to MacDill Field, Florida and return upon completion of their mission.

/s/ Lawrence F. Loesch, /t/ LAWRENCE F. LOESCH, Captain, Air Corps, Operations Officer.

GERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

July F. JOHNSTON,

Major, Kir Corps.



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DETACHED FOURTH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON
MACDILL FIELD, FLORIDA

10-12-43

SUBJECT -- CONTROL TOWER REPORT ON CRASH OF 5054, B-26, ON 10-8-43.

AT 1729 E. W. T. 5054 CALLED MACDILL TOWER FOR TAXI INSTRUCTIONS AND TAXIED OUT TO RUNWAY 4 FOR A NORTHEAST TAKEOFF ON A PROPOSED CFR CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT PLAN FROM MACDILL FIELD TO GODMAN FIELD AT MT. KNOX, KENTUCKY. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES, 5054 CALLS THE TOWER READY FOR TAKEOFF, AND IS CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF CLEARING THE GROUND AT 1738 EWT. TWO MINUTES LATER (1740 EWI) THE TOWER TOLD 5054 HIS TIME OFF THE GROUND AND CLEARED HIM FROM TOWER FREQUENCY. THERE WAS NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THIS CALL, BUT THE PLANE APPEARED TO BE IN NORMAL FLIGHT APPROACHING PETER-O-KNIGHT AIRPORT (TAMPA CIVILIAN AIRPORT). THE TOWER THEN DIVERTED IT'S ATTENTION BACK TO THE TRAFFIC ON THE FIELD.

AT 1743 EWT MACDILL TOWER RECEIVED INFORMATION ON THE TELEPHONE THAT A PLANE HAD WENT DOWN IN THE BAY NEAR PETER-O-KNIGHT AIRPORT.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, PETER-O-KNIGHT TOWER CALLED ON A DIRECT INTER-PHONE SYSTEM SAYING THAT A PLANE HAD JUST CRASHED IN THE CHANNEL JUST EAST OF THEIR TOWER AND THAT IT APPEARED TO BE A MEDIUM BOMBER.

AND ALL NUMBERS ON THE CRASH PROCEDURE LIST WERE CALLED.

CPL WILBURN A. YATES
ASN 48084017
TRICK CHIEF.

DETACHMENT FOURTH WEATHER SQUADRON MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida

11 October 1943

SUBJECT: Weather Conditions in vicinity of MacDill Field, on afternoon of 8 October 1943.

TO : Base Operations Officer, ABAC, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

- 1. The general weather conditions in the vicinity of MacDill on the afternoon of 8 October 1943 were general high broken to broken low scattered to broken stratus and cumulus at 1500-3000 feet. Few scattered light rain showers in Southern Florida, visibility eight (8) miles.
- 2. The following is a true copy from the original weather observations taken at MacDill Field:

EWT 1630 E6003508 125/84/70×7E/990 1730 E7003008 122/83/69×6E/989

Byron X. Dowell
Byron K. Dowell, 35484462,
S/Sgt, Det 4th Weather Sqdn,
Forecaster.

PRESS MAC DILL FIELD	RAFT CLE	RESTRIC		
MAC DILL FIELD			FLIGHT IDENT	FICATION NUMBER
				TION OF FLIGHT
	10.0.4		CONTACT	INSTRUMENT
RIAL NUMBER AIRPLANE MODE	10-8-4 HOME S	TATION .		
135054 ROUTE ROUTE	•	Godman I		
CTR MacD111		Direct	OUTE HRS. OF FUEL ABOARD ALTE	RNATE AIRPORT
Godman Field  CEIVER ONLY NO RADIO TRANSMITTING FREQUENCIES	6210	500 3 4 30	КС	KC /
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P Watkinson, A. G., 14	t Lt.	· Ab Hey	. C. H., Sgt.	
EN Godfrey D. G. 2nd		9		
Woessner, J/G. 2nd	T.t.	10	CERTIFIED A TRU	huston
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AF FORM NO. 234 IS REQUIRED SIS NOT REQUI	To company or company	ASTER		ALTERNATE AIRPORT
TO HELD TO HEL	/s/ Down	11 1640E		
I certify that thorough consideration has been give	n by me to the necessary map	a, contour afripa, emerge	ncy Woobly Notice to Airmen, danger ther map and other portionet weather	oress in sir novi-
I cartify that thorough consideration has been divided ion, and weather conditions affecting the probability of the probability	Base Veather Forecaster, I lations and with Army Air For in my passession the necessor the airplane is equipped for	have familiarized sysolf cos Regulations. I am fa y landing code. If an in or instrument flying and h	with the general weather conditions miliar with the airplane to be flown atrument clearance is mecassary. I as sufficient fuel aboard for the ai	to be anticipated. and have read the hold a rating as a ternate opecified.
EMARKS				
	MAND PILOT SENIOR PILOT	PILOT	SIGNATURE OF PILOT	
YES 0 1 YES 0 0 F L I G 1	T CLEARAN	E AHTHOR	/s/ A. G. Watkinso	
LIGHT PLAN SUBMITTED TO (CONTROL STATION)	TIME		THOT REQUIRED FOR COMMAND AND	SENTOR PILOTS)
	SNATURE			
LD76 - BB	(OPERATIONS)	CLEARANCE OFFICER-OPERA	TIONS OFFICER (NOT REQUIRED FOR COMM	AND AND SENIOR PILOTST

ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS
62D SUB-DEPOT
Office of the Engineering Officer

In Reply Refer To: 360.33

MacDill Field, Florida, 13 October 1943.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The salvage operations of B-26021 No. 41-35054 which crashed into Tampa Bay near Davis Island on 8 October 1943 disclosed the landing gear to be in "down and locked position".

Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Sub-Depot Maintenance Officer.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR BASE MACDILL FIELD
OFFICE OF THE BASE COMMANDER

MCDG-jps TAMPA, FLORIDA

360.33

21 October 1943

SUBJECT: Technical Report of Aircraft Accident.

Headquarters, Flight Control Command, Army Air Forces.
Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Transmitted herewith is AFF Form 14 covering aircraft accident of B-26C21 No. 41-35054, 1st Lt. ARLIE G. WATKINSON, Pilot, 391st Bomb Group (M), 574th Bomb Squadron, Godman Field, Kentucky. This accident occured about four miles North-East of MacDill Field, near Davis Island while pilot was attempting a crash landing in Tampa Bay. It occured at 1740 EWT on 8 October 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

B.C. CORNWELL .

2nd Lt. A.C., Adjutant.

1 Incl: AAF Form 14.

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-	DATE_ 9 OCT 1943.
	T.W.X. TELEGRAM
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	FROM COBOMGR 391 GODMAN FLD FT KNOX KY.
	TO CO FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND NISSEN BLDG WINSTON-SALEM NORTH CAROLINA.
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3	SELLER ALLEN LIST IT AUG 745 CODING THE DIAMPA FLORIDA. B.
171	ENGINE FAILURE. D. PILOT - ALLEN J SEILLER 1ST LT AUS 3AF MISSING
391	COPPLOT - ARLIE G WATKINSON 1ST IT AME 745 IN MICH.
Bo	DAONALD C GODFREY 2ND LT ORC 3AF MISSING. ENGINEER - CHARLES H HEY
/	SGT AUS 3AF MISSING. RAD-OPR - JAMES T HARDWICK S/SGT AUS 3AF IN HIPY
524	UNKNOWN. GUNNER - WILLIAM A DAILEY SGT AUS 3AF MISSING. PASS
	WILLIAM H WOESSNER 2ND LT AUS 3AF INJURY UNKNOWN. PARACHUTES NOT USED.
	E. CROSS COUNTRY. F. HIGH BROKEN OVER LOW BROKEN 1500 TO 2000
	WIND 40 DEGREES 15 MPH. G. B-26C21 41-35054. H. GODMAN FIELD
	KENTUCKY. I. UNKNOWN. J. UNKNOWN. K. UNKNOWN.
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