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Accident No. 45-11-2-520

Date 2-1-45

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WAR DEPARTMENT
A. A. F. Form No. 14
(Revised May 15, 1942)

AAF Station F-165

ACCIDENT No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place Watching Green (2) Date 2 November 1944 (3) Time Approx. 1710

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model P-51D-5 (5) A. F. No. 44-13877 (6) Station F-165

Organization: (7) 2d BD, 8th AF (Command and Air Force) (8) 361st Ftr. (Group) (9) 374th Ftr. (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

Duty (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	Rating (12)	Serial No. (13)	Rank (14)	Personnel Class (15)	Branch (16)	Air Force or Command (17)	Result to Personnel (18)	Use of Parachute (19)
P	Maclay, Alfred B. Jr	P	0-824668	1st Lt	18	AC-AUS	8th AF	Slight	None

~~PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT~~

(20) Maclay, Alfred B., Jr. (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (21) 0-824668 (Serial number) (22) 1st Lt. (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AC-AUS (Branch)

Assigned (25) 2d BD, 8th AF (Command and Air Force) (26) 361st Ftr (Group) (27) 374th Ftr. (Squadron) (28) F-165 (Station)

Attached for flying (29) _____ (Command and Air Force) (30) _____ (Group) (31) _____ (Squadron) (32) _____ (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 2-8-44 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 2-8-44 (Date) Instrument rating (37) 6-3-44 (Date)

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

(38) This type	304:00	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	38:25
(39) This model	213:30	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	9:00
(40) Last 90 days	151:25	(44) Night time last 6 months	3:00
(41) Total	338:50	(45) Night time last 30 days	0:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

	DAMAGE				(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	W	4			Complete Wreck.
(47) Engine(s)	W				Complete Wreck.
(48) Propeller(s)	W	4			Complete Wreck.

(50) Weather at the time of accident Vis 10 miles, 3/10 at 2,000 ft, 6/10 at 2500 ft, Wind N 10 mph.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No

(52) Cleared from A-92 (53) To F-165 (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Combat

(56) Nature of accident Landing Accident.

(57) Cause of accident Plane had been previously damaged by fire from friendly P-51. Flaps failed to operate & brakes were out, plane ran off end of runway & nosed up.

(58) Has form 54 been submitted? No.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

NARRATIVE: On 2 November 1944, at approximately 1710 hours, 1st Lt. ALFRED B. MACLAY, JR., O-824668, upon returning from an operational mission, flying aircraft P-51D-5, A.F. No. 44-13877, which had previously been damaged by fire from a friendly P-51 over Germany, ran off the end of the runway and nosed over in the mud. The pilot states that he was returning from Belgium, having refueled at one of the AAF stations there with several other pilots of the other two squadrons of this Group, when his engine conked out. They were at an altitude of about 500 feet and the pilot saw a British base off to his right. He dropped his wheels, but the flap handle was stuck by a link of the chain on the Very Pistol firing port, and he was unable to lower his flaps. He landed on the last third of the runway and applied full brake pressure immediately but without effect. A hole in the prop made the engine vibrate but all instruments checked O.K. The pilot was slightly injured and the aircraft was completely demolished.

RESPONSIBILITY: It is the opinion of the Aircraft Accident Committee that full responsibility go to the pilot of the P-51 who shot Lt. Maclay over Germany and who has not been identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Very Pistol firing port chain should be placed in position so that it would not hinder the lowering of flaps.

Wallace E. Hopkins
WALLACE E. HOPKINS,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Member, A/C Acc. Committee.

William W. Patton
WILLIAM W. PATTON,
Major, Air Corps,
Member, A/C Acc. Committee.

Signature John D. Duncan
(Investigating Officer)
JOHN D. DUNCAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Acting A/C Acc. Officer.

Date 9 January 1945.

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374th FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Operations Officer
AAF Station F-165

12 November 1944

S T A T E M E N T

ACCIDENT OF 1st LT. ALFRED B. MACLAY JR., 1710, 2nd NOVEMBER 1944, P-51D-5, 44-13877, MATCHING GREEN.

I was returning from Belguim, having refuled at AAF Station A-92 with several other pilots of the other two Squadrons of this Group, when my engine conked out. We were at an altitude of about 500 ft., and I saw the British base of Matching Green off to my right. I dropped my wheels, but the flap handle was stuck by a link of the chain on the Very Pistol firing port, and I was unable to lower my flaps. I landed on the last third of the runway, and applied full brake pressure immediately, but without effect. The ship rolled off the end of the runway and nosed over in the mud.

The ship had been shot up over Germany by a friendly fighter, but the engine received no hits. A hole in the prop made the engine vibrate, but all instruments checked O.K.

/s/ Alfred B. Maclay Jr.
ALFRED B. MACLAY JR.
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot,

A TRUE COPY:

Charles H Bergmann Jr

CHARLES H. BERGMANN JR.
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

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