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War Department
A.A.F. Form No. 14
(Revised Man 15, 1942)

Accident No. 45-21-6-521

2-13-43

WAR DEPARTMENT
AAF Station A-72
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place A-61 (2) Date 6 January 1945 (3) Time 0813
Aircraft: (4) Type & Model P-38J50 (5) A.F. No. 42-67859 (6) Station A-72
Organization (7) IX B.D. (Command & Air Force) Ninth AF (8) - - - - - - (Group) (9) 1st. Pathfinder (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

Duty (10)	Name (Last name first) (11)	Rating (12)	Serial No. (13)	Rank (14)	Per. Class (15)	Br. (16)	Air Force or Command (17)	Result to Per. (18)	Use of chute (19)
P	Shirey, Gerald W.	P	0-666840	Capt	01	AC	Ninth AF	Major 2	No
CP	Walters, William F	P	0-818916	1 Lt	01	AC	Ninth AF	Minor 2	No
N	Palmer, Howard L.	N	0-760093	1 Lt	01	AC	Ninth AF	Major 3	No
E	Stanton, Walter K.	E	0-709883	2 Lt	01	AC	Ninth AF	Major 3	No
RO	Reast, Howard K.	RG	18075920	Sgt	21	AC	Ninth AF	Minor 2	No
RG	LaBahn, William J.	RG	6578548	Sgt	21	AC	Ninth AF	Major 3	No
TG	Gazarkiewicz, Walter C.	RG	32379612	Sgt	21	AC	Ninth AF	Major 3	No

(20) Shirey, Gerald W. (21) 0-666840 (22) Capt (23) 01 (24) AC
(Last) (First) (Init.) (Serial) (Rank) (Per. Class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) IX B.D. Ninth AF (26) 344 (27) - - - (28) A-59
(Command & Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attchd for flying (29) IX B.D. Ninth AF (30) - - - (31) Pathfinder (32) A-72
(Command & A.F.) (Group) (Sqdn) (Station)
Org. Rat. (33) Pilot (34) 11/10/42 Pres. rat. (35) Pilot Inst. rat (37) - - -
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)
First Pilot Hours (at time of accident) Pres. rat. date (36) 11/10/42

(38) This type	864:20	(42) Inst. time last 6 mos	28:00
(39) This Model	722:30	(43) Inst. time last 30 days	09:00
(40) Last 90 days	86:20	(44) Night time last 6 mos	13:10
(41) Total	1176:40	(45) Night time last 30 days	02:10

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

Damage		(49) List of damaged parts
(46) Aircraft	M	Complete Wreck
(47) Engine(s)	M	
(48) Propeller(s)	M	

(50) Weather at time of accident 1 mile visibility. Ceiling unlimited.
(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at time of accident No
(52) Cleared from A-61 (53) To A-61 (54) Kind of clearance "J" Form
(55) Pilot's mission Combat mission
(56) Nature of accident Aircraft crashed on take-off
(57) Cause of accident Left engine cut out on take-off
(58) Was 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.)

On 6 January 1945 at approximately 0815, aircraft number 42-95859 with Capt. Gerald W. Shirey as pilot, crashed on take-off.

The left engine lost power about the time the gears were retracting. The airspeed being too low for single engine operation, Capt. Shirey cut all switches and crash landed straight in approximately four hundered yards off the end of the runway.

The loss of power of the left engine is considered one hundred percent responsible for the accident.

There are no recommendations for preventing accidents of this type since the power check on the ground was alright.

Signature ..... (Investigating Officer)
PAUL F. JONES, Capt. ORC
HARRISON A. EPPERSON, Capt. ORC
JOSEPH M. DU BOIS, 1st. Lt. ORC

Date 10 January 1945

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

12 January 1945

STATEMENT

After a ground power check which was okay, I took off from A-61 in aircraft 42-95859 at 0813, January 6, 1945. Take-off was normal with no loss of power in either engine until wheels were coming up at which time the left engine cut completely. Air speed at this time was 140 with ½ flaps down and wheels partially up. Visibility was bad with ice on the windsheild. I worked left throttle once to see if engine would catch again and when it did not, I cut both throttles, mixture controls and switches. Aircraft contacted ground in a complete stall, slightly left wing down and immediately burst into flame from the right engine. During slide I was unconscious but regained consciousness immediately, I believe, after ship stopped. I abandoned aircraft with complete crew before three of the four 500 # G.P. compostion "B" bomb load exploded.

Gerald W Shirey

GERALD W. SHIREY,
Captain, Air Corps.

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Encl: 2

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

12 January 1945

S T A T E M E N T

We took off from A-61 at 0813 on January 6, 1945 in aircraft 42-95859. We had maximum power from both engines on the ground but as the wheels began to retract, the left engine foiled completely. The ship vibrated violently and immediately lost altitude. We crashed approximately ½ mile off the end of the runway. Mixture controls, main line switch and throttles were cut with pilot and co-pilot hatches open when we crashed.

William H. Walters

WILLIAM H. WALTERS,
1st. Lt, Air Corps.
Co-Pilot.

Encl. 3

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OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS OFFICER
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

12 January 1945

SUBJECT: Assessment of Damage to A/C 42-95859.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U.S. Army.
(Through Channels)

1. Following is the damage incurred on A/C 42-95859 which occurred 6 January 1945 at A-61:

Airplane major replacement

Vaner A Smith
VANER A. SMITH,
Major, Air Corps,
S-3 Officer.

Incl. 4.

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OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS OFFICER
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

12 January 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U.S. Army.
(Through Channels)

1. Transmitted herewith is AAF Form 14 and supporting papers concerning accident of aircraft Air Corps Number 42-95859, which occurred at 0813 hours, at A-61 on 6 January 1945.

Vaner A Smith
VANER A. SMITH,
Major, Air Corps,
S-3 Officer.

Inclosures:

1. AAF Form 14.
2. Statement of Gerald W. Shirey, Capt. AC
3. Statement of William H. Walters, 1st. Lt. AC
4. Assessment of Damage.

360.33 1st Ind. E-Q-14
HEADQUARTERS 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M), APO 140, U. S. ARMY, 20 January 1945.

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

1. Submitted in compliance with Memorandum 55-1, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, dated 27 November 1944.

For the Commanding General:

C. C. VEGA, jr.,
LT. COLONEL, A.C.
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

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

360.33 2nd Ind. E-
HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, US Army, 25 January 1945.

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

Report of Aircraft Accident Committee approved.

For the Commanding General:

S.V. HESLIN,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst Adj. Gen.

4 Incls: n/c