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NAME OF PILOT			TYPE OF PLANE			ACCIDENT NUMBER		
FAGAN, Wm. M.			L-4A			45-5-19-531		
CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN
Sgt. Eshman	10-1	1/2						

LSB 1015-45 OPB

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Accident No. 45-5-13-531

Date 7-5

Checked by

Analyzed by

Copied for Wright Field by

Notes

5222:4-450FS

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WAR DEPARTMENT
A. A. F. Form No. 14
(Revised May 15, 1943)

RESTRICTED

Accident No. ____

WAR DEPARTMENT
USAAF STATION Y-55
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place Venlo, Holland (2) Date 13 May 1945 (3) Time 0930

Aircraft: (4) Type and model L-4A (5) A. F. No. 42-36533 (6) Station Y-55

Organization: (7) 9 A.D. 9 A.F. (Command and Air Force) (8) ____ (Group) (9) ~~1st. Pathfinder~~ Sq. Proy. (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	Fagan, William M.	P	O-720392	1st Lt.	18	AC	9th. A.D.	None	No
X	Maxon, William K.	B	O-766321	2nd Lt.	18	AC	9th.A.D.	None	No

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Fagan (Last name) William (First name) M. (Middle initial) (21) O-720392 (Serial number) (22) 1st Lt. (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AC (Branch)

Assigned (25) 9 A.D. Ninth A.F. (Command and Air Force) (26) 391st. (Group) (27) 575th. (Squadron) (28) Y-29 (Station)

Attached for flying (29) 9 A.D. Ninth A.F. (Command and Air Force) (30) ____ (Group) (31) ~~1st Pathfinder~~ (Squadron) (32) Y-55 (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 4-15-44 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 4-15-44 (Date) Instrument rating (37) ____ (Date)

First Pilot Hours:
(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	0:00	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	2:10
(39) This model	0:00	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	0:30
(40) Last 90 days	83:45	(44) Night time last 6 months	0:25
(41) Total	686:20	(45) Night time last 30 days	0:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

	Damage	(49) List of damaged parts
(46) Aircraft	M	Right Landing Gear Strut Bent.
(47) Engine(s)	M	Oil cooler and carburetor air intake damaged.
(48) Propeller(s)	M	Split propeller.

(50) Weather at the time of accident Clear skies and 5 miles visibility.

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

(52) Cleared from Y-55 (53) To Y-55 (54) Kind of clearance Local

(55) Pilot's mission Local Transition

(56) Nature of accident Crashed on take-off from road.

(57) Cause of accident Engine cut out after plane was in the air.

(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)

On the morning of 13 May 1945, at approximately 0930 A/C # 42-36583 an L-4A Piloted by 1st Lt. William M. Fagan, O-720392 was flying at a low altitude inspecting a crashed airplane approximately 3 miles S.W. of Baarls, Holland. The engine failed while at an altitude of 150-200 feet and Lt. Fagan executed a successful forced landing in an open field, without damage to the A/C or personnel.

Lt. Fagan believed that the cause of engine failure was over heating of the engine and after letting the engine cool for 15-20 minutes attempted to take off from a rutted, sandy road. The A/C got 4-5 feet off the ground when the engine failed again. Upon landing on the rough road the pilot was unable to hold the A/C straight and it ground looped into a ditch damaging the prop and buckling the right landing gear strut, damaged the oil cooler, and carburetor air intake.

The pilot took off without having the A/C cleared properly by an engineering officer. Responsibility for the forced landing rests on engine failure. Responsibility for damage to A/C rests 100% on pilot error.

Aircraft Accident Committee:

JOSEPH M. DUBOIS,
Capt., Air Corps,
(President)

ALLEN R. KANNAPEL,
Captain, MC,
Flight Surgeon.

GEORGE B. DAVIS,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
(Member)

GILBERT C. HINE,
Captain, Air Corps,
S-2 Officer.

DONALD C. MADDEN,
1st. Lt., Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

R.O. WEEDFALL,
1st. Lt., Air Corps,
Weather Officer.

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)
JOSEPH M. DUBOIS, Capt. AC.

GEORGE B. DAVIS, 1st. Lt., AC.

DONALD C. MADDEN, 1st. Lt., AC.

Date 15 May 1945.

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

15 May 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

On May 13, 1945, while flying at approximately 200 feet checking a B-24 that had crash landed the engine of 583 failed when advancing throttle. We landed in the field next to the field of the B-24. Since the engine of 583 was hot I contributed the failure to that, let it set for 15 minutes and took off from a dirt road next to the field because the field was too soft. We got into the air about two or three feet but engine failed again.

Damage done as far as I could see was broken prop and bent wheel brace.

William M. Fagan.
WILLIAM M. FAGAN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

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

15 May 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

On the morning of May 13, 1945, we were circling the wreckage of a B-24 about 10 miles west of Venlo. The L-4A in which we were flying had power failure causing us to make a forced landing. On checking the engine and running it up the pilot decided to take off. The field we landed in and the surrounding area made it impossible to take off except on a gravel road. We did so and were airborne about ten feet when we had a second power failure. In landing the right strut buckled and we nosed over breaking the prop.

William K. Maxon
2nd Lt A C
WILLIAM K. MAXON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

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TEAM "B"
304TH SERVICE GROUP
Office of the Maintenance Officer

APO 149, US Army,
17 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Aircraft, L-4A 42-36583.

TO : Commanding Officer, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (Prov),APO 140, US Army.
(THRU: Commanding Officer, Team "B", 304th Service Group, APO 149, US Army)

1. Subject aircraft L-4A 42-36583 belonging to the 1st Pathfinder Sq., made a forced landing in the vicinity of Baarlo, Holland on 14 May 1945.

2. Inspection of aircraft showed the following damage:

a. Propeller broken; must be replaced.
b. Right strut snapped; must be replaced.
c. Leading edge of right wing-tip damaged.

3. Pilot reported that aircraft engine cut-out. Upon inspection, the main fuel strainer was found to be approximately three-quarters full of water with indications of the presence of dirt. This condition undoubtly caused the engine to loose power with the resultant forced landing, and the above mentioned damage to aircraft.

4. The aircraft can be repaired if the above parts are available.

5. It is suggested that a higher standard of pre-flight and daily be maintained.

H. ALLAN BENZ,
Captain, Air Corps,
Chief of Maintenance.

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21ST WEATHER SQUADRON
DETACHMENT "ZD"

15 May 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Director of Weather Services, Ninth Air Force, APO #696, U. S. Army.

1. Accident occurred : 2-3 miles SW of Baarlo, Holland.
On : 13 May 1945.
At : 0930B.
Type Aircraft : L-4, #583.
Pilot : 1st Lt. WILLIAM N. FAGAN, 0720392.
Circumstance : Engine cut out while aircraft was aloft.

2. The weather at the time of the accident was: Sky clear, Visibility 5 miles.

3. Weather was not a factor in this accident.

R. O. WEEDFALL
1st Lt., Air Corps
Station Weather Officer.

Incl #5

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
Office of The Operations Officer.
APO 140, U.S. Army

15 May 1945

SUBJECT: Assessment of Damage to A/C L-4A 42-36583.

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

1. Following is the damage incurred on A/C L-4A 42-36583 in an accident that occurred on 15 May 1945:

a. Propeller broken; must be replaced.
b. Right strut snapped; must be replaced.
c. Leading edge of right wing-tip damaged.

Gerald W Shirey

GERALD W. SHIREY,
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

Incl #2

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

E-D-2

360.33

15 May 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U.S. Army.
Attention: A-3.

1. Transmitted herewith is AAF Form 14 and supporting papers concerning accident of aircraft L-4A 42-36583, which occurred on 13 May 1945, approximately 3 miles south-west of Baarle, Holland.

RECEIVED 23 MAY 1945

For the Squadron Commander:

William F. McCrone

WILLIAM F. McCRONE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

6 Incl:
Incl. 1: AAF Form 14.
Incl. 2: Statement of William M. Fagan, 1st Lt. AC.
Incl. 3: Statement of William K. Mason, 2nd Lt. AC.
Incl. 4: Statement of Maintenance Officer.
Incl. 5: Statement of Weather Officer.
Incl. 6: Assessment of Damage.

13530

25 MAY 45. HEADQUARTERS NINTH U.S. AIR FORCE

360.33

E-Q-3

HEADQUARTERS 9TH AIR DIVISION, APO [illegible], U.S. ARMY, 12 June 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 5 March 1945.

2. Forms 1 and 1A are not available as unit to which aircraft belonged has been disbanded.

3. Delay in submission due to coordination and further investigation within this headquarters.

For the Commanding General:

15 JUNE 45 HEADQUARTERS NINTH U.S. AIR FORCE

M. S. WORTH.
Captain, AC.,
Ass't. Adj. Gen.

6 Incls: n/c (in trip)

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HEADQUARTERS, NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, U S Army, 20 June 1945.

To: Commanding General, AAF, Winston-Salem 1, North Carolina. (Attn: Chief, Flying Safety.)

Report of Aircraft Accident Committee approved.

For the Commanding General:

HARRY L. KOCH
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst Adj Gen.

A14205

6 Incls: n/c (2 cys ea w/d)

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