

Accident No. 44-8-4-503.

Date

Checked by

Jm

9/11/73

Analyzed by

RZ

9-12-43

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

Accident No.

44-8-4-503

Pilot's Name

Pratt, James N.

02 Nature Group

Collision in full

05 Specific Nature

flight with terrain which
intercepts the flight path of the
plane

00 Underlying Nature

Undetermined

100% 37 Cause Group

Undetermined

92 Specific Cause

No information

00

Underlying Cause

Undetermined

Cause Group

Specific Cause

Underlying Cause

CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

ACCIDENT NO. **145**

(1) Place **A.A.F. Station 107** (2) Date **4 August, 1943.** (3) Time **0100**
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model **B-17F** (5) A. F. No. **42-3124** (6) Station **A.A.F. 107**
Organization: (7) **8th BC 8th AF** (8) **303rd Bomb** (9) **427th Bombardment Squadron (H)**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

8AF

PERSONNEL **BH**

BH

DUTY	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)
P	Pratt, James N.	P	0-731897	1st Lt.	2C-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	no
P	Bowling, William A.	P	0-735034	2nd Lt.	2C-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
N	Boner, Allan M.	N	0-733401	2nd Lt.	2C-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
E	Johnston, Walter J.	AE	35329860	S/Sgt.	2E-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
R	Royar, Frederic J.	NO	32341758	T/Sgt.	2E-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
G	Robinson, Walter B.	NO	59159842	Sgt.	2E-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
G	Simonte, Phillip (NMI)	NO	16151178	Sgt.	2E-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	
X	Van Dyke, Alfred B.	NO	18089601	Pfc.	2E-1	AC	8th AF	Fatal	

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) **Pratt** **James** **N.** (21) **0-731897** (22) **1st Lt.** (23) **2C-1** (24) **AC**
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) **8th BC, 8th AF** (26) **303rd** (27) **427th Bombardment** (28) **A.A.F. 107**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) **8th BC, 8th AF** (30) **303rd** (31) **427th Bombardment** (32) **A.A.F. 107**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) **Pilot** (34) **30 Oct. '42** Present rating (35) **Pilot** (36) **30 Oct. '42** Instrument rating (37) **9 April, 1943**
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

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

(38) This type **401:55** (42) Instrument time last 6 months **35:00**
(39) This model **341:55** (43) Instrument time last 30 days **2:00**
(40) Last 90 days **123:40** (44) Night time last 6 months **47:55**
(41) Total **401:55** (45) Night time last 30 days **3:30**

FT

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft W 5	
(47) Engine(s) W 5	
(48) Propeller(s) W 5	

(50) Weather at the time of accident **3/10 to 4/10 low clouds at 2,500 to 3,000 feet above sea. 2/10 to 3/10 medium cloud, visibility 6 to 12 miles.**

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident **Unknown**
(52) Cleared from **A.A.F. Station 107** (53) To **A.A.F. Station 107** (54) Kind of clearance **Contact**
216 **2162**

(55) Pilot's mission **Routine night cross country flight.**

(56) Nature of accident **Crashed into high ground.**

(57) Cause of accident **Unknown.**

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Lt. Pratt and crew departed A.A.F. Station 107 at 2354 hours 3 August, 1943 on a routine night cross country flight. Clearance was contact, with good weather conditions (see No. 50 reverse side). Course was checked by Navigator and Pilot with Flying Control for obstacles, balloons, restricted areas, etc. (see attached statement). No communication was sent or received by ground stations. At 0250 hours (50 minutes overdue) Flying Control of A.A.F. Station 107 reported the aircraft overdue to First Bomb Wing. At 0300 hours information was received that an unidentified aircraft had crashed on the peak of Arenig Fawr (52°54'08"N 03°44'03"W). At 0730 hours a report was received confirming the aircraft as a B-17, burned out, and that four bodies had been recovered (see statement of P/O P. J. Cooper, RAF station Llanbedr). Eight bodies were later recovered and identified. Due to complete destruction of aircraft no explanation can be reached.

Charles E. Marion
CHARLES E. MARION,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

Kermit D. Stevens
KERMIT D. STEVENS,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Deputy Commander.

5 Incls:

- #1 - Statement of Sq Eng. Off.
- #2 - Statement of British Eng. Off.
- #3 - Statement of Med. Off.
- #4 - Statement of Flying Control Off.
- #5 - Photographs

Signature

Glenn E. Hagenuch
GLENN E. HAGENBUCH,
Major, Air Corps.

Date 13 August, 1943.

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ENGINEER OFFICER'S REPORT

At approximately 0200 hours on the 4th August, 1943, I received a call from the Orderly Officer notifying me of a crash near Bala. The M.O. was also notified and it was arranged for the light ambulance to pick up the M.O. and myself and the duty crew at the main guardroom. The crash was located with the aid of the Home Guard, under Captain Freeman who was on the scene of the accident.

The wreckage of a FORTRESS II C.23124N was on the peak of ARENIG MWR (3,000 ft. approximately), the aircraft having struck about 50 ft. below the summit apparently in a slightly nose up position. It had then continued to the peak where it burst into flames. The crew had apparently made no attempt to escape, parachutes and safety equipment being with the wreckage.

After noting such particulars of identification as could be found the H.O. and myself descended to the foot of the mountain, where we found arrangements for a crash guard had been undertaken by Colonel Royce of Headquarters Searchlight Detachment, CORWEN (CORWEN 113). Inspector Davies of the BALA police met us here and told of discovery of the crash and action taken prior to our arrival. We were taken to the ARENIG QUARRY where use was made of the phone to make arrangements for sending the crash signal and collecting the bodies. We then returned to LLANBEDR. £18 in notes, property of one of the unidentified bodies was handed to the M.O. by Inspector Davies. The M.O. also took charge of the duplicate copies of the identity discs, one copy being left with the body.

Particulars of discs:-

Frederick Royer. 32341758
F. Royer. 9116 Springfield,
Queensville N.Y.

P. Simonte 16151178
Mrs. A. Simonte
16455 Woodward,
Highland Park - Mich. P.

Allan M. Boner O-737401
John J. Boner 7-42-43
17906 Syre Avenue
Tinley Park Ill.

James M. Pratt 0731897
J.M. Pratt Pocahontas
Arkansas.

/s/ P.J. Cooper.
P.J. COOPER, P/O
Engineer Officer,
R.A.F. Station, Llanbedr, Mer.

"A TRUE COPY"

Glenn E. Hagenbuch
GLENN E. HAGENBUCH,
Major, Air Corps.

Incl #3'
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427TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
303RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 634 U. S. ARMY
Office of the Surgeon

12 August 1943

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

TO : Commanding Officer, 427th Bombardment Squadron (H),
303rd Bombardment Group (H), APO 634, U S Army.

1. On August 5, 1943 the undersigned visited the scene of the aircraft accident (B 17F #42-3124) at Arenig Fawr, and the following information is submitted as personal observations made at that time:

a. The airplane while traveling in a North-Westerly direction had struck the mountain head-on about forty (40) feet below the top.

b. Apparently the airplane, after having struck the mountain, traveled on the top where it was almost entirely destroyed by fire.

c. In the area where the airplane first struck the mountain three damaged propellers were observed.

d. On the top of the mountain it was observed that the plane was almost completely destroyed by fire with the following exceptions:

(1) Tail of plane intact except for the guns being about 20 feet from the tail.)

(2) Tail wheel and tire intact without damage.

e. Upon examination identification of all remains of the crew were definitely established.

f. Six (6) of the bodies of the total eight (8) crew members were scorched. Bodies of the Pilot and Co-Pilot were not burned.

Louis A. Lane

LOUIS A. LANE,
Capt, M.C.,
Squadron Surgeon.

Incl. #4'

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427TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
Office of the Engineering Officer
A.F.O. 634

U-A-9

12 August, 1943.

MEMORANDUM: To Whom it May Concern.

1. In compliance with verbal orders of the Commanding Officer, an inspection was made 5 August, 1943, on the crash of model B-17F, A.A.F. Serial No. 42-3124, which occurred, 4 August, 1943, at approximately 01:15 hours.

a. Findings.

- (1) The aircraft crashed into a mountain peak five (5) miles west of Bala, Wales.
- (2) The aircraft was headed in a North westerly direction and struck the peak of the mountain fifty (50) feet below the summit. The main body of the aircraft came to rest on the summit of the peak, where it burned. Two engines and several parts were found on the opposite side of the peak from where impact occurred.
- (3) From all indications the aircraft was in a straight and level attitude of flight when it struck the peak. There were no indications of material failure, or use of emergency equipment by the personnel.

Quentin W. Margrove

QUENTIN W. MARGROVE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

Incl. #2

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HEADQUARTERS, 303RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF,
Office of the Flying Control Officer,
A.P.O. 634, U.S. Army.

9 August, 1943.

SUBJECT: Statement of Flying Control Officer.

TO : Commanding Officer, 303rd Bombardment Group (H), APO 634, U.S. Army.

1. I checked course and altitude with Lt. Pratt and Lt. Boner. Clearance was phoned to Wing Flying Control where course and altitude were rechecked by Lt. Donovan and found to be satisfactory. I warned Lt. Pratt and Lt. Boner twice about Mountains along the route at Wing's special request. Lt. Pratt said he would fly plenty high enough.

2. ROUTE - Molesworth, Holyhead, Molesworth.

ALTITUDE - 3,000 feet.

TAKE-OFF - 2354 hours.

E.T.A. - 0200 hours.

ESTIMATED TIME OF CRASH - 0100 hours.

3. Following is a list of crew and passengers:

Crew: Lt. Pratt - P
Lt. Bowling - CP
Lt. Boner - N
Sgt. Royar - R
Sgt. Johnston - E

Passengers: Sgt. Simonte
Sgt. Robinson
Pfc. Van Dyke

David T. Steere

DAVID T. STEERE,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Flying Control Officer.

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Incl #5

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(GAD-146-4-303)(4/8/43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH



(GAD-146-1-48-43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH



(GAD-146-4-303)(4/8/43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH

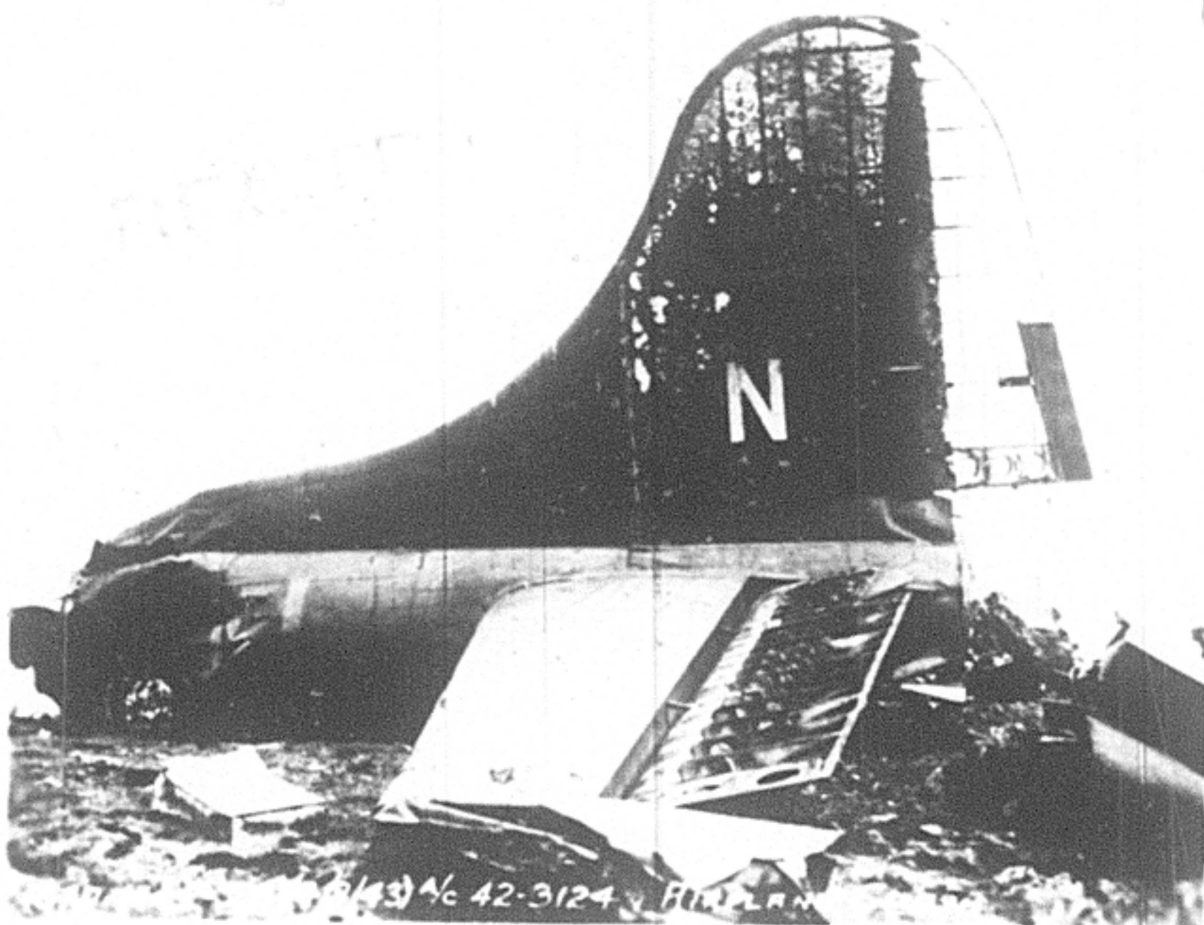


(GAD-146-1-4)(4/8-43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH

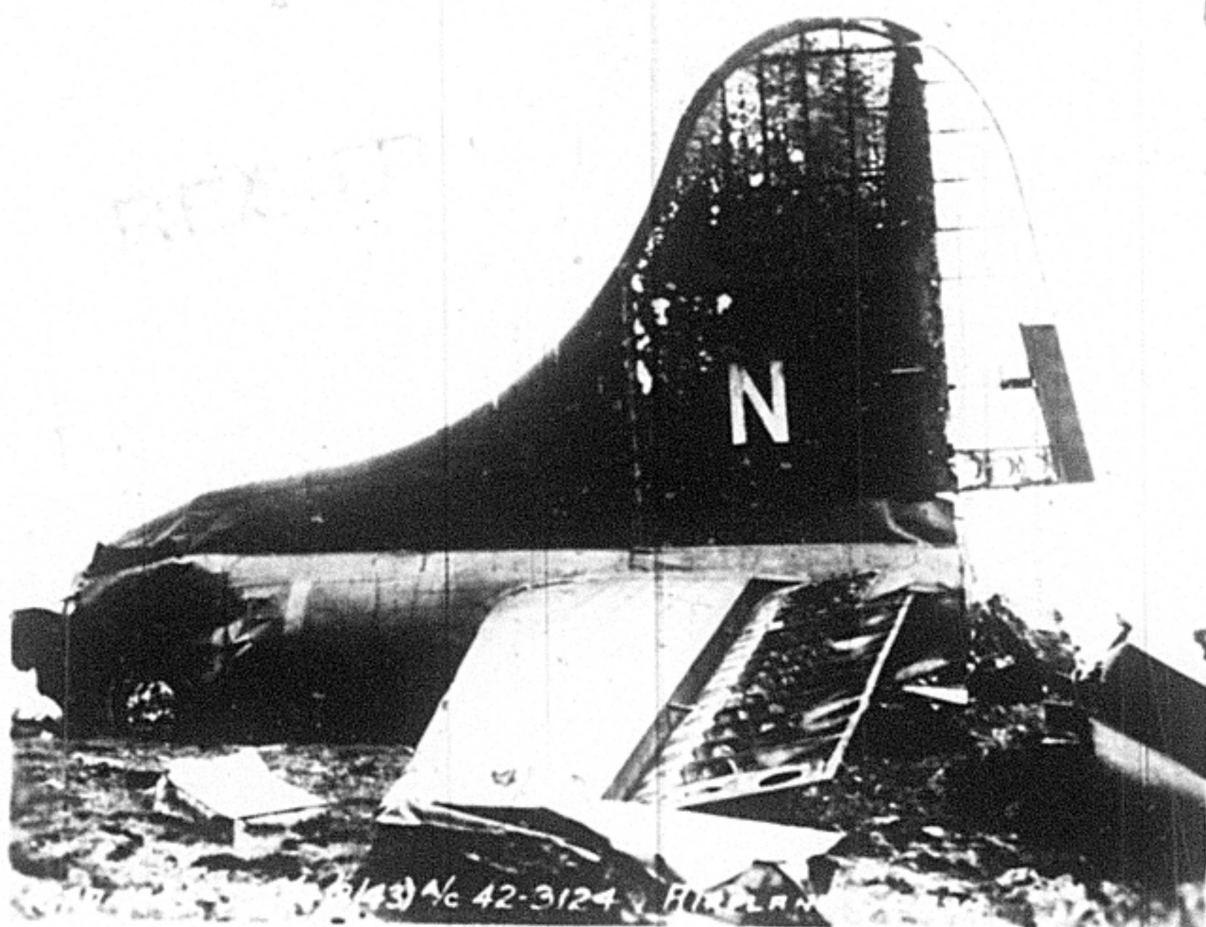




15-AD-142-3-303 (4/10/49) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH

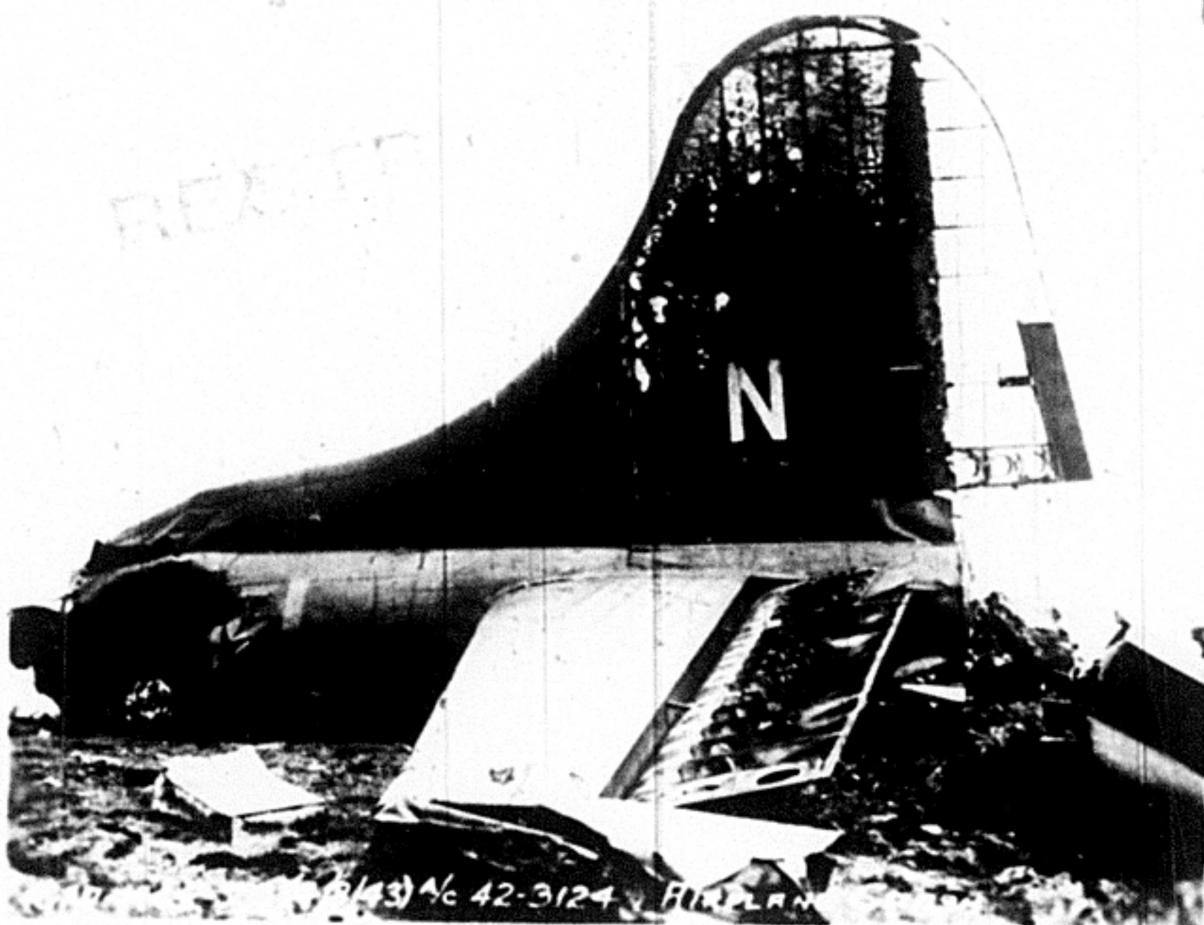


15-AD-142-3-303 (4/10/49) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH





16AD-142-3-303 (4/9/43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE CRASH



(4/9/43) 42-3124 AIRPLANE