NO. 101 W. 1016-got tope No. TS. 700 ROYAL AIR FORCE

R.A.F. Form 412 Of Ave., 1943.1

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION coened on (date) ... 1.12.44.

at (place) R.A.F. Station, Ossington by order of O.C. 93 Group, Bomber Command with instructions to inquire into the FLYING ACCIDENT on (date) 30/11/like

at (place) Crow Paris Farm (nearest town)Suiton-on-Front.

"Here insert any sad (i). To excelled the fact called fire is the Findings set out below. Special terms of (ii) To inquire specially less?"

The findings set out below.
The findings set ou

COMPOSITION OF THE COURT (OR NAME OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER)

President	A/S/L	J. B. St	ayers		93 Group	9	
Manhers	A/F/L	E.M. Boy	pley		27 O.T.1	J.	
	and the same of the	and the same					
In accordance (a)	F/L	Kay			A.I.B. (Fire) Newark	
	100	LIST OF W	ITNESSES			Mark Service	
Rank	Name	Unit (if civilian	Rank	No	THE	Unit (if civilian	

Rank	Name	Unit (if civilian say so)	Rank	Name		Unit (if civilian say so)
F/L	Grout	82 O.T.U.	P/L	Jenson		82 O.T.U.
A/F/L	Smith M.		Sgt	Sinstead		
8/L	McInture		Mr.	Goodwin		Civilian
S/L LAC	Whitehouse		F/L	Carr	30.0	MU(Att 82 0.P.U.
TAC	Richmond		F/0	Waughman		82 O.T.U.
LAC	Marlow		S/L	Harris		
IAC F/O W/O	Inglis		Opl	Parkinson		No. M
W/O	Crabb		LAC	Buchnell		
LAC	DODSON		P/L	Atkins		
A00	Douries		W/0	p at Cox	20070	

FINDINGS (b) OF THE COURT OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER NOTE ... THE COURT OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER MUST REFER TO A.P. 837, SECTION SI.)

Type, Hark and	Dual or single	Damage to	Enrine(s)	Ergine I	Number(s)	Damage to Engine(s)	Whether air-
Number	control	Airfrane (d)	Type and Sories	A.H. No.	Makers No.	(4)	the Fight
Wellington MK X LN 167	Dual	ROZAL	Port Heroules VI	270929	855473	Serious	Yes
			Starboard, Hercules VI	377042	3510062	Serious	

		Ala	100 30			
. Description of Occupa	nts.	119				12.00
Service Number and Name (e)	Rank	Unix	Duty, e.g., filot, A.G. etc.	No. of aircraft in which he was occupant	Where seated	Extent injured
J.41261 ROWE J.G. J.43567 SHALLWOOD J J.45515 PARKETTE, J.		82 O.T.U.	Pilot Navigator Air/Bomber	Wellington	Presumed in normal	} Patally
R.191097 McGRON R.278665 MORRIS	SGE		WOP/AIR A/G	14167) crew posit:	ons)

NOTES—(a) If present by reason of Spotiatin qualifications, issuers of them to be suced (ofer ACES 15.1, part. 1800 (ii)).

(b) The findings must as beaution and supported by the numerical excepts.
(c) If all the control of the control of the control of excepts.
(d) If all the control of th

3. The purp	ose of and instructions for the flight(s) were as follows:
Aircraft Type and Number	, (i) Who authorised the flight(s)! (ii) for what purpose? (iii) Special Instructions (if any). (iv) Was instruction being given? If so, by whom?
ellington	(i) F/L A.C. Grout (ii) Fractice High level bombing.

No.

4. The aircraft took off as follows :

Aircraft Type and Number	Time	Place (from which)	Weather conditions (including strength and direction of surface wind) at the time and place of take-off.
Wellington NR X. LN.167	1015	Ossington Airfield	Visibility 2800 yards, Low Cloud MIL (/19 total aloud Surface wind W.S.W. 15 M.P.H. (Fitness figure 6 airfield weather GREEN)

5. The accident occurred at the place and on the date set forth on the front page of this Form. Further details are as follows : Exact location of crash, including height (g) where relevant Weather conditions (including strength and direction of surface wind, condition of light, etc.) at the time and place of accident.

1130 hrs.	Field adjoining Crow Park Farm Map reference of exact location 22,1860	Visibility 2800 yards. Cloud 5/10 at 6000 feet. Total clouds 10/10.
	Sheet 46 Ordnance Survey 1" to mile (2nd War Revision 1940)	Surface wind S.W. by west 15 m.p.h. (Fitness figure 6 airfield GREEN)

The flying experience of the pilot prior to this flight was :

	Within	6 months	prior to	ccident		Total (Day and	solo	Total	solo	By	Hours		
Name, Age, where trained,	Type of aircraft Day and including type		and Night Night		Day and Night		Mistr (D		On type On		On	in- stru-	Link
4. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	evoted in para. I.	Dual	Solo	Deal	Solo	quoted in para, I	types	On type quoted in para. I	types	(i)	Trainer (n)		
WE J.G. .41261	Oxford, Wellington,	42.20	75.35	06.25	13.25	27.05	203.	Onil.	21.40	45.55	50.00		

No. 20 B.P.T.S. Oshawa Ontario, Canada

Centralia.

Ontario, Canada, No. 20 A.F. U.

No. 82 0.2.U.

NOTES—(j) Give (i) height (dozen sea heat) of ground at some of accident; (ii) histies show ground of any obtained acrosck by arroral before impost with the ground, as applicable.

(i) and self-) offers be agreed in electric accorder in right for factor it would some no metal purpose to quote.

(ii) and self-) offers be agreed in electric accorder in right, or in bod visibility accessivating instrument fiying or while finger accordingly bland.

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10

We (I) have examined the following aircraft, engine, flight authorization book, and pilot's flying log

books and also Form 700 and have ascertained : Description of book and form Remarks, including material facts supplementing or confirming evidence of witnesses and whether all necessary impectates were carried our prior to the fight.

Authorisation Book In order. Confirms flytimes at para, 6, In order, In order. Aircraft Engine and Airframe.

Further

In order. The Port engine Log show the engine as having done 344 hrs.

Fight Grow Order Book. No order found relating to teaching of right hand circuits (8/KLanding NOTE.-Wayy of these Document have able exampled, the must be used and reason gives.

We (8) have visited the scene of the accident before aircraft was removed and have found the following material facts :

Aircraft Wellington X. IN. 167 struck the ground a fairly flat angle, low speed, broke up partially, and took fire. Wreckage distribution as at sketch (Appendix F) indicating pert wing struck ground first followed by impact of Port Engine, Nose of aircraft which broke away. Aircraft finally slewed round and burnt out almost entirely, cuter starboard wing and tail unti being unburnt. Bomb door handle was located and was at SHFT. Front petrol cocks were found in correct position. Engine controls although badly damaged appeared to be

consistent with port engine failure. Two practice books were found one intact

Name	Rank	Unit	Reasons precluding obtaining of evidence	How concerned with acciden
	100000			

- CONCLUSIONS. Under this Heading the following should always be included:
 - (a) Brief description of the accident and its attendant circumstances.
 - (b) Diagnosis of cause or causes including all contributory factors. (c) Recommendations, if called for by the convening authority,
- (a) Aircraft Wellington X LN 167 took off on a Bombing detail at 1015 hours on 30/11/44 (2nd Witness) next heard of over Rufford Range where one bomb was dropped. Engine was heard making abhormal noises at 11.06 kms. Athornat was next seen at very low height (about 300') approaching airfield from Rasterly direction (Enge lies to West) in a dive. Aircraft levelled out made part right hand circuit of airfield disappeared to north of airfield, was next seen below the top level just prior to crashing. Aircraft flow round airfield in a very nose up attitude and was in a similar attitude immediately prior to crash. Crash at field adjoining Crow Park Farm (May ref. 241860 Sheet 46 I" to mile) was immediately preceded by dropping of port wing.
- (b) (i) Primary Cause of death. of Pilot Officer Row and crew (except rear gunner) was multiple injuries and burns, cause of death of Sgt Norrie (rear gunner) was multiple injuries only, all the result of accident to Wellington IR X IX.167 on 30/13/44. (ii) Primary cause of section to Wellington MK.K.IM.167 was loss of control by the palot while flying at very low altitude on one engine. Note: - Lors of control may have been due to a stall in attempting to avoid tree Marked 2 at Appendix F) or may have been due to pilot attempting to turn to port at low height against the failed engine again in an effort to avoid obstructions).

Secondary causes of accident were:-Engine failure followed by loss of height before an airfield was reached. Note:- 1. In view of the time clapse between leaving the range (10th witness) and reaching airfield (2nd & 9th witnesses) and the request for D/F assistance using a priority it is apparent but not proven that the pilot became lost. In view of the loss of height during this interval it is also apparent that the pilot's ability to fly on one engine was poor, The loss of height may also have been due to the pilot not concentrating on his flying owing to being lost. The fact that Balance Cock B was found closed indicates that the full drill for manipulation of fuel cocks in event of engine failure had not been carried out.

10. (Continued)

Notell. The fact that the instructions in force beguing teaching of single engine makings, the not been compiled with its not considered to have engine bearing on the appairance alone the pilot was not in a position to make a right had circuit and lasting once be made to be pilot to a provisional to 00°s. The fact that the dived towards the siriled may have been an attempt to crash land thrarted by obstructions (aircraft in dispersals) but this cannot be proven.

The court consider that the weather was a contributory secondary cause in that it prevented the pilot from seeing the airfield from a distance (2nd witness, N/2 Log) but that for normal flying the weather was satisfactory.

Note: The court do not consider that the failure of the matchaseper in Plying Control to receive and pass on the information relating to use of a priority in the request from Wallington ID, 167 for Q.D.W's to have any bearing in this case on the specification was given by Plying Control from the time or adjusting of the airrorit at 11.20 hours, the priority first having been received by the 37 Operator at 11.21 hours.

(c) The court recommend that the recent extension to the engine life of Hercules Engines from 300 hours to 360 hours be reviewd by higher authority.

11. This accident (inchest) being investigated by the Accidents Investigation Branch.

A.I.B. Newark
(FireBranch)

Signature of President (or Investigating Officer). J.B. Sayers. S/L.

(Member of Court) R. W. BSpley P/Lt.

Date of signing...

REPORT OF COMMANDING OFFICER File Ref. No ...

I concur with the finding except that there is no evidence to prove that the pilot's ability to fly on one engine was poor, owing to his loss of higher. The 9th witness saw his approaching the flying field in a dive that was levelled out at approximately 80'. It would appear that he hoped to crash land or carry out some manesure, contrary to his instructions,

Signature of C.O. H.I. Dabinett G/C

Date of signing 12.12.44 Commanding R.A.F. Station Ossington.

notes in that respect to be an intelligent and constructive attempt to "risualize" the circumstances of the accident. While not contributory to the crush, I consider the Flight Commander, S/GE Farris to have shown a lack of interest and supervision of the execution of Flight Orders and I have solvised the Unit Commander to that effect and called for appropriate ageltion.

Signature (Sed) G. W. HAYES G/CAPS.

> Concur with the findings and the remarks of the Group Commander, The recommendation referring to the restriction of engine life is not agreed. Statistics show that the extension to 560 hours has been more than functified.

Date of signing, 24.1.45. Signature H.G. BRAIN B/L (SGD)

FOR A.O.C. in C. Bomber

ommand

I, J17559 F/L A.C. Grout am deputy Flight Commander "A" Flight at 82 O.T.U. Ossington. On 30.11.44 I authorised J.41261 P/O J.G. Rowe and crew to carry out shigh level Bombing practice over RUFFORD range. I obtained a weather forecast at 0750 hours and later at 0900 hours for the local area including the range area from the duty meteorological forecaster. In my opinion, based on the forecast and my own observations from the ground, the weather was fit for the exercise.

(signed) A.C. Grout, F/L.

2nd Witness.

I, 147387 A/F/L. M. Smith am a flying control officer at R.A.F. Station, Ossington.

On 30.11.44 I was duty flying control officer. Wellington MK X. IN. 167 took off for RUFFORD Bombing Range at 1015 hours on 30,11.44. Between 11.20 and 11.26 the aircraft (Wellington MEX, LM167) was reported as having been given four Q.D.M's (course to steer to reach base) (see extract of Watchkeepers log at Appendix D). No priority was requested and the request for D/F assistance (Direction finding assistance) was not considered abnormal. At 11.23 hours I observed Wellington bk.X.IN 167 South West of airfield making a right hand circuit at an estimated height of 150-200 ft, and distant from the Watch Office, where I was located, about 1 miles. Two minutes later the aircraft called up on T.R. 1196 (Radio Telephone) requesting permission to make a right-hand circuit, stating that his port engine was tw's(unserviceable) (see extract R/T Log at Appendix E). Simultaneously I observed a RED verey cartridge fired from the aircraft. I ordered rockets and mortars to be fired in order to assist the pilot in keeping the airfield in sight. The pilot stated (over Radio Telephone) that he was at 100 feet requested continuation of firing of pyrotechnics which was complied with. He further said that he could not see airfield after being given unqualified permission to land on any runway he could reach. Rockets were fired until some time after aircraft disappeared from sight and broke off two way Radio Telephone communication. Position at which I first saw the aircraft is marked a Point A on sketch map at Appendix A. At 1135 Wellington X LNB61 was allowed to take off to look for Wellington MK, XIN167 which I suspected had crashed. The pilot of this aircraft F/L A.H. BATTERSBY of 93 Group Screened Pilots School located and passed the position of the crash and fire tenders and ambulances were promptly despatched, (sgd-) M. Smith F/Lt.

3rd Witness.

I,S/Ldr M. McINTYRE, Chief Technical Officer at 82 0.T.U.. Ossington state: - On 30.11.44, I arrived at the scene of the accident to Wellington X LN.167 approximately fifteen minutes after the accident had happened. I found the aircraft burning, medical personnel were endeavouring to remove the bodies. The aircraft was almost totally destroyed both engines and mountings having been torn away from the aircraft. The port engine was about 30 yards away from the main wreckage, the propellor was feathered. There was no sign of fire on either engine. I removed the scavenge oil filter from the port engine and found particles of metal together with pieces of piston ring in the filter. On further inspection of the engine at R.A.F. Station Ossington the following defects were found:- All the front cylinder connecting rods were fractured - all front sleeve drive cranks were fractured and the sleeves seized - the front big End and bearing had run - the pistomin the front bank of cylinders had disintegrated. is suggested that the primary cause of the engine failure was due to failure of the from big end bearing with consequential oil starvation of the front bank cylinder assembly. Lack of oil pressure would render the spray jet (housed in cranshaft front balance weight) inoperative leading to seizure of the sleeves through lack of oil and overheating. On examination of the wreckage balance cock A was found to be closed. I also noted that Balance Cock B was closed and C P and C S (Main wing tank cocks) were open.

(signed) M. McIntyre. S/Ldr.

4th Witness.

I 1735050 LAC. Whitehouse, acro engine fitter employed in Maintenance Rectification Unit at R.A.F. Ossington state:-

on 29.11.44 at 0800 hours I carried out Daily Inspection on the port engine of Wellington MK X.1M167. The engine was in my opinion fully serviceable.

(signed) A. Whitehouse.

5th Witness.

I, 1201874 LAC Dodson F, aero engine fitter employed in Maintenance Rectification Unit at R.A.F. Ossington state:-

On 29.11.44 at 0800 hours I carried out Daily Inspection on the starboard engine of Wellington MK.X.IN 167. The engine was in my opinion fully serviceable.

fth Vitness.

I, 1414893 LAC Richmond, Flight Mechanic (Airframe) employed in Maintenance Rectification Unit at R.A.F. Station Ossington state:-

On 29.11.44 I carried Daily Inspection on Wellington NK.X.IN.167 The airframe was in my opinion fully serviceable.

(signed) W.J. Richmond.

7th Witness.

I, 1484466 LAC Marlow, armourer employed in Daily Flying Unit at R.A.F. Ossington state:-

On 30.11.44 I bombed up Wellington NM.X.IN 167 at approximately 0745 hours with eight 1121b practice bombs. I did not remove safety pins from bombs.

(signed) F. Marlow

8th Witness.

I, 140493, 8/0 c.A. Inglis, as a steorological Forecaster at 22 o.T.U. Gosfapton. I was duty forecaster from 6800 hours to 1900 hours on 30,11.44, The forecast issued at 6800 hours for the local area was circulated to Fights and Flying Control (copy statement at Appendix C). I answered subsequent telephonic enquiries confirming no marked attention in issued forecast.

(signed) G.A. Inglis. F/O.

9th Witness.

I. 355MOZ W/O T.K. Grabb am Engineer Officer Daily Fixing Unit, 80 O.T.U. on 2011.44 Two not only at my dispersal area located adjacent to the S.W. end of runway 32 point B sketch map at Appendix A. At approximately 11.25 hours on 50.11.44 I as igneted wellingen BEX.IN 167 espreaching with port engine propellor featored at about 500 feet from a two two points of the state of the state of the state of the form of the state of the s

attitude. I saw two red verey cartridges fixed, the first on the aircraft's initial approach about a half mile from the airfield, the second while the aircraft was almost above my position.

(signed) T.K. Crabb W/O.

1.0th Witness.

221723 AO Davies, 0.V. am a sember of the range party at Bafford Boshfar Range. on 30,11,144. at 1101 hrs. Wellington aircraft MK X.1867(call sign liepup S.5ugar) approached the range and dropped a semice party. At 1106 the aircraft dropped into first boom. Almost Vellington 16.X.181.167 humanual splittering notions from this aircraft, wellington 16.X.181.167 humanual splittering notions from this aircraft, the direction of his departure.

(signed) G.V. Davies.

11th Witness.

I, J.7729. N/L.8.G. Senson R.G.A.P. as a pilet instructor in the Gorewston Gang at 80 G.7.U. II.A.P., contangle. On A.J.1.M. I was detailed to carry out check dual circuits with P/O Rows, a pupil pilet m. "A "Pilet. I gave this pupil Tagless landing practice and left hard single engine circuit and landing spectice and left hard single engine circuit and landing spectice. I did not teach time thank displet engine circuit and landing spectice. I did not teach time hard circuits (in simulating property of the pilet.) to be certeful out, P/O Row was an average pilot shown no unusual tendencies. He was confident and shard worker. I sent him sold after advising idm on the procedure in the event of port engine failure. I frequently make closels of all orders and instructions and make every effort to keep up

(signed) M.G.Jenson F/L.

12th Witness.

I, A58962 Sgt. Statead W.A.P., Watchberger (Tyring Control). Attact the part and the Watchberger in Hydring Control Ra.P., Cadagton on 30.11.44. At about 1250 I was informed that Walling 150 X IM 167 had requested a series of 9.01/m (course to base). I passed this information to 97.5 and this darty Contry UTicer. I have no recollection between the passed that was the second of the passed that the passed in the passed of the passed that the passed in the passed that the passed in the passed in the passed of the passed in the pass

(Sgd.) J.M. Sinstead Sgt.

3th itness.

Its. John Goodwin/Junior) of Grow Park Parm, Batton on Twent (Farmer) states:—I was working in the West Hield east of Crow Park Parm (Marked A on aketch) Appendix F. At about 1120 hours on 30/11/46, I save melliagnon starrieth, the engine stopped flying in a circuit of Gestageon airfield, this aircraft flow out of sight in the airfield. Osselegation airfield, this aircraft flow out of sight in the airfield with a starrieth flow out of sight in the airfield of the park Farm and hullings below two top company to the right of Crow Park Farm and hullings below two top company was then level laterally but his nose appeared to be up as though he was trying to claim. After crossing the boundary of the field in which he crashed his port wing dropped and the aircraft struck the ground, gapm rounds and burst into flames. I ran over and assisted in rescuing

(signed) J. Goodwin.

Lith Witness.

I. F/L T.L. Carr Medical Officer states: - On 30.11.44 I was duty medical offi er at R.A.F. Station Ossington. At about 11.30 I was warned that a crash was likely to occur and on further information a few minutes later proceeded to scene of the accident to Wellington MK.X. IN 167. On arrival at the scene of the accident R. 278665 Sgt. Morris (rear gumer) had been removed from the rear turnet to a point about 15 yards away from the crash by civilians. The remaining crew members were lying among the wreckage of the aircraft, having already died as a result of the multiple injuries and burns, the direct result of the aircraft orash. R.278665 Sgt. Morris died about half an hour later despite first aid treatment on the spot and subsequent treatment in Station Sick Quarters I hereby certify that Jul261 P/O Rowe, J.G. (Pilot) Ju3567 P/O Smallwood J.A. (Navigator) J.45515 P/O Parlette J.R.G. (Air Bomber) R.191097 Sgt. McCron (Wireless Operator Air) all died as a result of multiple injuries and burns caused by aircraft crash (Wellington MK.K.IN 167) on 50.11.44 and that R. 278665 Sgt Morris (Air Gunner) died as a result of multiple injuries as a result of the same aircraft crash. I was unable to determine the exact position of the crew members in the aircraft apart from the rear gunner who was removed from the rear turret. The other crew members were in the fore-part of the wreckage I was not able to tell whether safety straps were used by the pilot owing to the extent of destruction of aircraft and the extensive fire

(signed) T.L. Carr F/Lt.

15th Witness.

I, 171904 Flying Officer Waughman Flying Instructor in the Conversion Gang at 85 C.T.U. Ossington state:-

On dates between 3.1.0.44, and 4.1.44 I gove N/o Now chal instruction which included instruction is neglect endowed by the date of the state of the

(signed) R.R. Waughman F/O

16th Witness.

T, S/Adr C.E. Harris, Flight Commander of A Flight at 82 C.T.U.
state:- Orders relating to training of pilots including single engine
landing training, are normally published in the crew order book and
are to the best of my knowledge carried into effect by the screened
milots.

The progress records of pupil pilots are supervised by the conversion gant instructors whose responsibility it is to ensure that they are adequately trained prior to being sent solo.

(signed) C.E. Harris, S/L.

11th Witness recalled.:- and the evidence of the 15th and 16th witnesses having been read to F/L M.G. Jenson in accordance with K.R. & A.G.1. barn 1318.

J. J.1793 M/L M.G. Jenson further state: When I sent M/O Rows DLO I was actified that he was competent to fly Wellington aircraft solo. Prior to the 4th November 1944, there was no coder in the arw order book requiring right had single engine similated landings to be carried out during dula conversion nor did I see any other orders to this effect.

(signed) M.G. Jenson P/L.

17th Witness.

I 56666, 0pl 3. Parkinson Wireless Operator, state:
On 50.11.44 I was on duty at the D/F but at R.A.F. Ossington when
Wallington IM 167 requested a series of Q.D.M.'s on P (important) priority.
I instructed the telephone operator IAG Bushnell to inform flying control.
I heard IAG Bushness inform flying control of the fact.

(signed) S. Parkinson.

Sth Atness

I, 123945 LaO J.W. Danimell, teléphone operator at the D/F hat R.A.F. Ossington on 50.11.44. During the morning at about 11.20 on instruction from 501. Parintono, I informed the Daty Watchbooper at Pying Control that Wellington LW.167 had requested a series of Q.D.M's using priority F. (Important)

(signed) J. Bushnell.

19th Witness.

I, F/L Atkins J.14000 Flying Instructor in the Conversion Gant at 82 0.T.U. state:-

Frior to 30.11.44 I had not seen any order requiring as many right hand simulated single engine circuits as left hand, to be carried out.

(signed) J. Atkins F/Lt.

20th Witness.

I, Wing Commander R.M. Cox, D.F.C., A.F.C., Chief Instructor at 82, O.T.U. state:— I gave instructions that the order referring to Single Engine landing training shown at Appendix G was to be passed to Flights for promulgation in Grew Order Books $3/9/\mathrm{LM}$.

(signed) R.M. Cox. W/C

16th Witness recalled (and K.R. & A.C.I para 1318 complied with).

If S/L Herris state: I cannot account for the order shown at Appendix G not being incorporated in the crew order book prior to 50.11.44, The order (at Appendix G) was, I find, issued as Grew Order No 65, As at that these a crew order No. 65 on a difference subject was in force I can only assume that the new order No 65 was not incorporated on that account.

(signed) C.E. Harris S/L.