FLYING EXPERIENCE: 44 7638

MONTH: 14 July 1943 DAY: 0830

PILOT'S NAME / HOURS FLYING EXPERIENCE

NAME AND RANK OF PILOT: SCHLAG, Alfred, 2nd Lt. MARIN

SERVICE AND GROUP: USMCR

ORGANIZATION: MADG-42, VMF-422

DATE OF PILOT RATING: 5-8-43 FLYING EXPERIENCE (YEARS): 1

HRS. THIS MODEL LAST 3 MOS: 4.1 TOTAL HOURS: 244.8

PREVIOUS ACCIDENT RECORD: Clear

INJURIES: Fatal A

NAME AND RANK OF OTHER PERSONNEL | INJ.

None

JA

AIRCRAFT: CLASS VF (L)

MODEL AND NUMBER FM-1 #15012

DAMAGE	A	B	C	D	E	M
AIRPLANE	X					
ENG. 1	X					
ENG. 2						
ENG. 3						
ENG. 4						
ENG. 5						
ENG. 6						

REMARKS: Complete loss except for salvage of small parts.

NATURE OF ACCIDENT: B

PERCENTAGE EACH CAUSE: 100% PE (50% judgment, 50% disobedience)

LOCATION: Santa Ynez Mountains, 26 mi. NW MCAS Santa Barbara

PURPOSE OF FLIGHT: FAMILIARIZATION

FLYING OR LANDING CONDITIONS: Solid overcast, 1200' ceiling, five mile visibility.

ANALYSIS

Pilot's orders were to stay within sight of the field and under no circumstances to go above the overcast. With another pilot on a familiarization flight. Lt. Schlag proceeded to fly twenty miles from the field, where they discovered a hole in the overcast. They went up through the hole and when the hole started to close at 0820 Lt. Schlag started an instrument letdown through the overcast headed toward the mountains, despite the fact that the mountain peacks protruded above the overcast. His plane hit a peak which was shrouded by the clouds. He apparently saw the peak an instant before he hit and pulled up because the plane hit on one side of the peak, bounced over the crest, and came to rest on the other side.

Entered on Pilot's Card

U. S. NAVY
BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS AIRCRAFT TROUBLE ANALYSIS
FORM N. AER. 336-A