3/9

COMMANDER AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION, NORTH ISLAND
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FF4-1/ A25 4-11
SERIAL NO.:
80/ 5534

APR 19 1955

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on VF-92 AAR ser 1-55 of 29 March 1955 concerning AD-4B BuNo 132253 accident occurring 9 March 1955, pilot FUTRELL

From: Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-57)
Via: Officer in Charge, U.S. Naval Aviation Safety Center

Subj: VF-92 aircraft accident occurring 9 March 1955

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT INSTRUCTION 3750.1C

(b) (5)

[redacted]

J. Sinkankas

J. SINKANKAS
By direction

Copy to:
BUAER (2)
CINCPACFLT (complete)
COMAIRTASKGRU-3
BAR, EL SEGUNDO
CO, VF-92

1

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
AIR TASK GROUP THREE

A[redacted]3:AWC:ao
A25
Ser: 19-55

APR 15 1955

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on VF-92 AAR 1-55 of 29 March 1955 concerning AD-4B BuNo. 132253, accident occurring on 9 March 1955, Pilot FUTRELL

A25

From: Commander, Air Task Group THREE
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-57)
Via: (1) Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
(2) Officer-in-Charge, U. S. Naval Aviation Safety Activity

Subj: VF-92 Aircraft Accident occurring 9 March 1955

(b) (5)

[redacted]

D. W. Cooper
D. W. COOPER

Copy to:
BUAER (2)
NAVAVSAFACT (2)
BAR, EL SEGUNDO
CO, VF-92

12027

2

ORIGINAL

FF12/VF-92
CO:RPL:ms
A25
31 MAR 1955

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on VF-92 AAR 1-55 of 29 March 1955 concerning AD-4B BuNo. 132253, accident occurring on 9 March 1955, Pilot FUTRELL

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron NINETY TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-57)
Via: (1) Commander Air Task Group THREE
(2) Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
(3) Officer-in-Charge, U. S. Naval Aviation Safety Activity

Subj: VF-92 AAR 1-55 concerning AD-4B, BuNo. 132253, Pilot FUTRELL; forwarding of

(b) (5)

[redacted]

R. P. Lecklider
R. P. LECKLIDER

Copy to:
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NAVAVSAFACT (2)
BAR, EL SEGUNDO

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT
OPNAV FORM 3750-1 (REV. 3-52)

OPNAV REPORT-3750-1

THE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THIS REPORT TO THE C.O. OF THE ACTIVITY CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION. IT SHALL THEN BE FORWARDED BY THE C.O. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT AAR INSTRUCTIONS.

1. DATE OF ACCIDENT	HOUR	2. ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT	3. AAR SERIAL NO.
9 March 1955	0745	Fighter Squadron NINETY TWO	1-55

4. MODEL A/C	BUNO.	CHECK DAMAGE TO A/C	5. REPORTING CUSTODIAN OF A/C
AD-4B	132253	[X] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E	Fighter Squadron NINETY TWO

6. NAME OF UNIT OPERATING THE A/C	BASED AT	OPERATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND
Fighter Squadron NINETY TWO	NAAS, El Centro	ATG-3, ComAirPac

7. LOCATION OF ACCIDENT	8. UNIT TO WHICH OPERATOR ATTACHED
12 miles West of NAAS, El Centro	Fighter Squadron NINETY TWO

9. PERSONNEL INVOLVED *(Including name and injury code of those injured, not occupants of A/C)*

A FULL NAME, RANK, SERVICE, FILE NO. *(List person in control first)*	B AGE	C BILLET	D POSITION	E INJURY
FUTRELL, Cletus Joseph A., LT, USNR, GR I, [redacted] (b) (6)	34	Pilot	Cockpit	A

10. PILOT EXPERIENCE	TOTAL ALL MODELS	TOTAL THIS MODEL	LAST 12 MONTHS ALL MODELS	LAST 3 MONTHS ALL MODELS	LAST 3 MONTHS THIS MODEL
TOTAL HOURS	3080.9	52.5	133.1	53.6	52.5
INSTRUMENT HOURS			44.7	9.2	9.2
NIGHT HOURS			7.9	0.0	0.0
CV LANDINGS DAY/NITE					

INSTRUMENT RATE: Standard
PILOT'S AGE: 34
DATE DESIGNATED: Unknown

11. CHECK IF: [ ] INCIDENT TO FLIGHT [ ] NOT THE PILOT TO FLIGHT — Est. Cost $313,000.00

12. PURPOSE OF FLIGHT: Training - Dive Bombing — CODE: 1A7

13. TIME IN FLIGHT: 45 min.

14. TYPE OF ACCIDENT: Collision - Ground — CODE: B

15. MANEUVER INVOLVED: Dive Bombing Run

16. WEATHER: [X] VFR [ ] IFR — CEILING: 13,000' — VISIBILITY: 40 mi.

17. DARKNESS? [ ] YES [X] NO

18. CLEARANCE ISSUED: VFR

19. WIND DIRECTION: 250 — FORCE: 4

20. ATTITUDE ON IMPACT: Nose Down — ANGLE OF IMPACT: 35° — STOPPING DISTANCE SPEED ON IMPACT: Approx. 300k

21. DID FIRE FOLLOW IMPACT? [X] YES [ ] NO

22. AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE DATA *(Fill in all data in every case of material failure or malfunction, actual or suspected)*

HISTORY	SERVICE TOUR	MONTHS IN THIS TOUR	TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERHAULS	FLT HOURS SINCE OVERHAUL	FLT HOURS SINCE ACCEPTANCE	TYPE OF CHECK LAST PERFORMED	FLT HOURS SINCE CHECK	NO. DAYS SINCE CHECK
AIRCRAFT								
	MODEL ENGINE	SERIAL NO. OF ENGINE						
ENGINE 1								
ENGINE 2								
ENGINE 3								
ENGINE 4								

HAS THIS A/C BEEN DAMAGED IN PREVIOUS ACCIDENT(S) DURING PRESENT SERVICE TOUR? [ ] YES [X] NO — IF "YES", GIVE DATE(S) OF PREVIOUS ACCIDENT(S) — RUDH SERIAL NUMBER ON THIS ACCIDENT, IF SUBMITTED

23. CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS *(Check or fill in only one primary "P" factor, all others secondary "S")*

P [X] S [ ] PILOT (OR CREW) ERROR
P [ ] S [ ] ERROR OF OTHER PERSONNEL
P [ ] S [ ] MATERIAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION
P [ ] S [ ]

24. CHECK CONDITIONS INVOLVED IN THIS ACCIDENT *(List other)*
[ ] X-WIND, STACKWASH, SLIPSTREAM, TURBULENCE
[ ] PITCHING OR ROLLING DECK
[ ] COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTY
[ ] AIRPORT HAZARD
[ ] ROUGH SEAS
[ ] TERRAIN CONDITIONS

25. EMERGENCY CONDITIONS
[ ] IMMEDIATE FORCED LANDING
[ ] PRECAUTIONARY LANDING
[ ] ENGINE FAILURE
[ ] FUEL EXHAUSTION OR NEAR EXHAUSTION

26. PERSONNEL SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED
[X] PARACHUTE
[ ] EJECTION SEAT
[X] SHOULDER HARNESS
[X] SAFETY BELT
[ ] EXPOSURE SUIT
[ ] G-SUIT
[X] PROTECTIVE HELMET
[ ] OXYGEN EQUIP.
[ ] LIST OTHERS

MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT SERIAL NUMBER: 1-55

27. ENCLOSURES AND DISTRIBUTION CHECK OFF LIST.

CHECK	ENCLOSURES	CHECK	NO.	DISTRIBUTION BY COMMANDING OFF.
	STATEMENTS: PILOT		ORIG.	CNO (OP-52) VIA CNO. OF COMD. & NASA
	LSO		2cc	NATAVSAFACT DIRECT
	ENG. OFF.		2cc	OWNER DIRECT
	CAT. OFF.			CHECK AND LIST OTHERS AS REQUIRED
1-5	WITNESSES		1cc	COMAIRPAC
	OTHERS		1cc	ATG-3
6-12	PHOTOGRAPHS		1cc	NAS EL SEGUNDO
	DRAWINGS			
13	WEATHER REPORT			
	LOADING MANIFEST			

(b) (6)

4

29. The Accident.

At 0700 9 March 1955, LT Cletus Joseph A. FUTRELL was airborne in AD-4B BuNo 132253 in company with three (3) other aircraft. At about 0710 70° dive bombing runs were commenced. At about 0745 LT FUTRELL commenced his fourth run. The bomb was dropped and a pull-out started. The angle of dive was reduced to about 35°. This is the attitude of the plane when it struck the ground. The plane exploded upon impact.

30. Damage to Aircraft.

The aircraft was completely demolished, the parts being spread over 30° sector for a distance of approximately one-half mile from the point of impact.

31. Investigation.

(b) (5)

[redacted]

31. Investigation (Cont'd)

(b) (5)

[redacted]

32. Analysis.

(b) (5)

[redacted]

33. Conclusions and Recommendations.

(b) (5)

[redacted]

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STATEMENT OF LTJG P. M. MALONEY, USN, [redacted] (b) (6) 1310

[redacted] (b) (5)

P. M. Maloney

P. M. MALONEY
LTJG USN

?

Enclosure (1)

(b) (6)

STATEMENT OF ENS C. W. TURNER, USNR [redacted] /1325

(b) (5)

[redacted]

C. W. Turner
C. W. TURNER
ENS USNR

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Enclosure (2)

STATEMENT OF ENS G. R. BROOKS, USNR, [redacted] (b) (6) /1325

[redacted] (b) (5)

G. R. Brooks

G. R. BROOKS
ENS USNR

9

Enclosure (3)

Statement of Target 103 Crew Member

9 March 1955

(b) (5)

[redacted]

Chalres L Whitaker
AB3 USN

Charles L Whitaker

10

Enclosure (4)

9 March 1955

Statement of Target 103 Crew Member

(b) (5)

[redacted]

David L. Morris

DAVID L. MORRIS
AN USN

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Enclosure (5)

USNAAS EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA
AEROLOGICAL OFFICE

CRASH WEATHER REPORT

DATE: 9 March 1955 TIME 0745 PST

WIND VELOCITY: 4 KNOTS GUSTS TO -- KNOTS

WIND DIRECTION: 250 DEGREES:

CLOUDS AND CEILING: 13,000 Scattered

VISIBILITY: 40 miles

WEATHER: Mostly clear

ALTIMETER SETTING: 29.88 INCHES OF HG

TEMPERATURE: 54 °F

DEW POINT: 37 °F

HUMIDITY: 53 %

TYPE AIRCRAFT: AD SQUADRON: VF-92

REMARKS: (MX) Above observation taken at NAAS, crash occured Target 103; 12 miles WNW of Station.

W. T. Moore
W. T. MOORE, AG3 USN
Observer

R. W. Sallee
R. W. SALLEE, AGC USN
Forecaster

Distribution:

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Enclosure (13)

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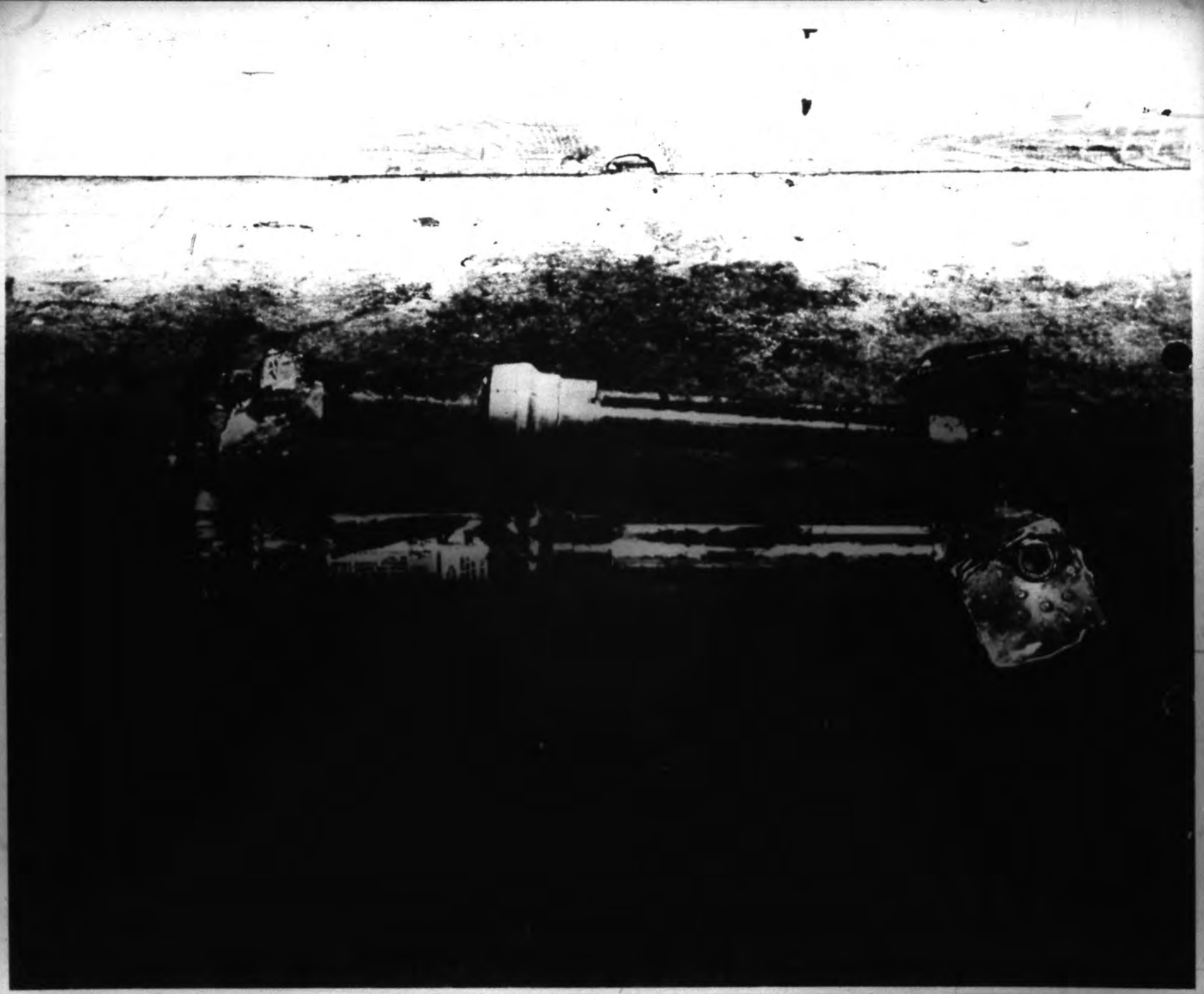

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