Accident No. 43-4-15-6

Date

Checked by RLO 5-4-43

Analyzed by RC 5-4

Copied for Wright Field by _____ _____

Notes _____

(Nature Group Spin without engine failure

(Specific Nature Spin at high altitude w/o engine failure

(Underlying Nature Undetermined

(Cause Group Undetermined

(Specific Cause "

(Underlying Cause "

R1:4-43

WAR DEPARTMENT
A. A. F. Form No. 14
(Revised May 15, 1942)

RESTRICTED

Amarillo Army Air Field, Texas

ACCIDENT NO. 054

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

43-4-15-6
Radio

(1) Place Goodnight, Texas (2) Date April 15, 1943 (3) Time 12:55 4

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-20C (5) A. F. No. 42-33162 (6) Station Will Rogers Airport.

Organization: (7) 3rd (Command and Air Force) (8) 46 PL (Group) (9) 87 PL (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)
01 P	Hulette, Eugene S.	P	0-736222	2nd Lt.	201 01	A.C.	A.F.	Fatal 4	No

MAY 1 '43 PM

RECEIVED
HQ. AAF., DIRECTOR OF FLYING SAFETY

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Hulette (Last name) Eugene (First name) S. (Middle initial) (21) 0-736222 (Serial number) (22) 2nd Lt. (Rank) (23) 201 (Personnel class) (24) A.C. (Branch)

Assigned (25) 3rd A.F. (Command and Air Force) (26) 416 PL (Group) (27) 670 PL (Squadron) (28) Will Rogers Airport (Station)

Attached for flying (29) 3rd A.F. (Command and Air Force) (30) 46 PL (Group) (31) 87 PL (Squadron) (32) Will Rogers Airport (Station)

Original rating (33) P (Rating) (34) 1-4-43 (Date) Present rating (35) P (Rating) (36) ----- (Date) Instrument rating (37) ----- (Date)

NG 1-4-43

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

(38) This type	73:30	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	8:00
(39) This model	21:10	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	0:00
(40) Last 90 days	73:30	(44) Night time last 6 months	19:25
(41) Total	330:40	(45) Night time last 30 days	14:20

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

	DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	W S	Complete destruction by fire
(47) Engine(s)	W S S	" " " "
(48) Propeller(s)	W S S	" " " "

(50) Weather at the time of accident Not a factor 00

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

(52) Cleared from English Field (53) To Local training (54) Kind of clearance C.F.R. 0

(55) Pilot's mission Formation training 75

NG 04 SN 14 UN 00

(56) Nature of accident This pilot was leader of training flight. Flight was in a loose lufberry circle at 2500 feet when this airplane fell into a spin, recovered and fell into another from which pilot was unable to recover before impact with ground.

(57) Cause of accident Undetermined. No evidence of pilot error or structural failure.

100% Undetermined CG 37 SC 92 UC 00

Spinal 2

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16—28757-1

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

1. Pilot of this airplane was leader of a training flight. At four miles east of Goodnight, Texas, formation, at about 1 P.M., went into a loose lufberry circle. While in this circle lead airplane fell off into a spin, recovered and fell off again without recovery before coming in contact with the ground. On impact with the ground airplane burst into flames and pilot was instantly killed.

2. Witnesses offered no evidence as to any engine failure. Lt. Hulette was considered a superior pilot. Examination of the wreckage which was badly burned and mangled disclosed no failure of materiel.

3. In view of the foregoing, this board is unable to determine either the exact or underlying cause of this accident. Further the board is unable to ascribe blame for the accident to the pilot since evidence fails to show any evidence of carelessness.

4. No recommendations are made in the case of this accident.

4 Incls.
Incl 1 - Statement of Witness, H. Davis.
Incl 2 - Statement of Witness, C. A. Thomason.
Incl 3 - Pilots Statement of Witness.
Incl 4 - Photos.

Signature Paul B. Hagaman, Capt., A.C.
(Investigating Officer)
Edgar T. Selzer, Col., A.C.
Paul B. Hagaman, Capt., A.C.
Robert N. Lando, 1st Lt., A.C.

Date April 21, 1943.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—28757-1

RESTRICTED

EIGHTY SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
FORTY SIXTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
THIRD AIR FORCE

Amarillo Air Base,
Amarillo, Texas,
April 16, 1943.

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement of Witness.

TO : Materiel Officer, 46th Bombardment Group (L), Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

I was number three (3) man in a three (3) ship formation. At an altitude of 2500', about 25 miles S.S.E. of Amarillo Field, the formation leader signaled "echelon right" and upon completion of the maneuver peeled off into a medium lufberry circle to the left. Upon the completion of one (1) 360 degrees turn all ships were spaced approximately 250 to 300 yards apart. I had been following the No. 2 man but glanced often at the leader to anticipate the next move. On this occasion I saw the lead ship in a spinning attitude, evidently the first half turn. At approximately 1000 ft after one full turn of the spin, the ship seemed to flatten out but immediately resumed the spin which was to the left all the way. The ship struck in a field sending up a large cloud of dust and bursting into flames about one (1) second thereafter. After circling the crash and seeing no sign of life I returned to Amarillo Field at 1320.

FRANK C. HOGAN,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Frank C. Hogan

Encl. 5

RESTRICTED

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Three planes flying at medium altitude south of my house caused me to leave the house to watch them. They were flying in a circle. The leading plane seemed to dive toward the ground, level off for an instant and continued on and struck the ground, bursting into flames at once. This made it impossible to remove the pilot.

H. Davis

CERTIFICATE

I certify that Mr. H. Davis personally appeared before me and the foregoing is the substance of examination on details of aircraft accident involving A-20-C airplane 42-33162 about one P.M., April 15, 1943.

Paul B Hagaman.
Paul B. Hagaman,
Captain, Air Corps,
Investigating Officer.

Incl. 3

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

I was working on a tractor in the yard about one P.M. when three Army planes came over my place at medium altitude and began to fly in a circle just east of my house, when suddenly the leading plane seemed to dive toward the ground, level off for a moment at low altitude and then dived into the ground and burst into flames at once. Due to rapid spread of the fire it was impossible to rescue the pilot.

C. A. Thomason.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that Mr. C. A. Thomason personally appeared before me and the foregoing is the substance of examination on details of aircraft accident involving A-20-C airplane 42-33162 about one P.M., April 15, 1943.

Paul B. Hagaman

Paul B. Hagaman,
Captain, Air Corps,
Investigating Officer.

Incl. 4

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR BASE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMA

E-1-2

File No. 000.93
Acrft. Accidents, Gen'l.

24 April 1943

SUBJECT: A.A.F. Form 14 on A-20C Airplane #42-33162.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Attention: Flight Control Command, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Pursuant to instructions contained in paragraph 1a, Section V, Part Eight, AAF Regulation 62-14, dated May 26, 1942, inclosed herewith is AAF Form 14 covering Group I accident to A-20C Airplane #42-33162 on April 15, 1943; pilot, 2d Lt. Eugene S. Hulette, A. C.

For the Commanding Officer:

B. H. LEVY,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

6 Incls.
Incl. 1- Ltr fm AAFTTC Amarillo, Texas, 4-21-43.
Incl. 2- AAF Form 14.
Incl. 3- Stmt of Witness, H. Davis.
Incl. 4- Stmt of Witness, C. A. Thomason.
Incl. 5- Stmt of Witness, 2d Lt. F. C. Hogan.
Incl. 6- Two Photographs.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS TECHNICAL SCHOOL
ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND
AMARILLO ARMY AIR FIELD
Amarillo, Texas

PBH/lpc

April 21, 1943

SUBJECT: Completion of A.A.F. Form No. 14.

TO : Commanding Officer, Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1. Request that items 42 through 45 inclusive on A.A.F. Form No. 14 inclosed be completed and forwarded as prescribed by paragraph 2, Section 1, Part Five of A.A.F. Regulation 62-14 dated May 26, 1942.

By Order of the Commanding General:

RECEIVED
APR 25 1943
BASE HQ.
WILL ROGERS FIELD,
OKLAHOMA

N. C. VOSHEL
Major, AGD
Adjutant

Incl 1

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Fig. 6

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Fig. 6

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CONFIRMATION COPY

MESSAGEFORM

Date April 15, 1943

File No.

Office of origin HQ. TS, AAFTTC
AMARILLO ARMY AIR FIELD, AMARILLO, TEXAS

Address

To:
COMMANDING GENERAL
ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRECEDENCE			
WIRE or RADIO		ESSENTIAL MILITARY MAIL	
Urgent		Airmail	
Priority		Special delivery	
Routine	X	Ordinary	
Deferred		Registered	
Week end			

Any message not X'd for precedence will be sent "Deferred." Initials J/mtg

Message:

FIFTEEN APRIL EIGHTEEN HUNDRED Z FOUR MILES EAST GOODNIGHT TEXAS PILOT EUGENE S. HULETTE 2ND LT. AIR RESERVE FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEENTH BOMB GROUP LIGHT-SIX HUNDRED SEVENTIETH BOMB SQ LIGHT STATIONED WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. TRAINING FLIGHT. FELL OFF IN TIGHT BANK WHILE MANEUVERING IN FORMATION APPROXIMATE ALTITUDE TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET. UNABLE TO RECOVER AND CRASHED. PILOT FATAL. PASSENGERS NONE. CAVU. 42-33162 A20 C WILL ROGERS FIELD, OKLAHOMA. AIRPLANE AND ENGINES COMPLETE WRECK. POSSIBILITY OF MATERIEL FAILURE NOT YET DETERMINED. SURVEY. PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGED. END AFAPR- 284

RALEY CO AAFTS

W.D. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

DFS

N. C. VOSHEL,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

CONFIRMATION COPY

APR 19 1943

13-4-15-6

MSG 8 AR 234 APRIL 16/43

PTS ARARILLOFIELD TEX 15 838P

CG AAF WASHN D C

FIFTEEN APRIL EIGHTEEN HUNDRED FOUR MILES EAST GOODNIGHT TEXAS PILOT EUGENE S HULETTE 2ND LT AIR RESERVE FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEENTH BOMB GROUP LIGH-SIX HUNDRED SEVENTIETH BOMB SQ LIGHT STATIONED WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMACITY OKLAHOMA TRAINING FLIGHT FELL OFF IN TIT BANK WHILE MANEUVERING IN FORMATION APPROXIMATE ALTITUDE TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET UNABLE TO RECOVER AND CRASHED PILOT FATAL PASSENGERS NONE CAVU 42-33162 A29 C WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMA AIRPLANE AND ENGINES COMPLETE WRECK POSSIBILITY OF MATERIEL FAILURE NOT YET DE-TERMINED SURVEY PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGED END AFAPR-284

RAL PVCO AAFTS

RECD IN AAF MESG CENT 160533Z

RECD BY AFAFC 160827EWT

RELEASED TO TWX 160885 EWT

MH0956EWT

MASTER COPY

13-4-15-6

FTS AMARILLOFIELD TEX 15 838P

COMA DING GENERAL AIR FORCES

WASHI DC

FIFTEEN APRIL EIGHTEEN HUNDRED FOUR MILES EAST GOODNIGHT TEXAS PILOT EUGENE S HULSETT 2ND LT AIR RESERVE FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEENTH BOMB GROUP EIGHT-SIX HUNDRED SEVENTIETH BOMB SQ LIGHT STATIONED WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA TRAINING FLIGHT FELL OFF ON LIT BANK WHILE MANEUVERING IN FORMATION APPROXIMATELY ALTITUDE TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET UNABLE TO RECOVER AND CRASHED PILOT FATAL PASSENGERS NONE CAVU 42-33162 A29 C WILL ROGERS FIELD OKLAHOMA AIRPLANE AND ENGINES COMPLETE WRECK POSSIBILITY OF MATERIEL FAILURE NOT YET DETERMINED SURVEY PRIVATE PROPERTY DAMAGED END AFAFR-264

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43-4-15-6