

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
OFFICE OF AVIATION SAFETY (AS-50)  
Washington, D.C. 20594

October 31, 1994

HUMAN PERFORMANCE GROUP  
WITNESS SUB-GROUP  
SUB-GROUP CHAIRMAN'S FACTUAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

A. ACCIDENT: DCA-94-MA-076

Location: Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
Date: September 8, 1994  
Time: 1904 Eastern Daylight Time  
Airplane: Boeing 737-300, N513AU

B. WITNESS SUB-GROUP

The sub-group met at the on-site command post on September 9 through 15, 1994. The following group members participated in the investigation:

Chairman: Beverley Johnson  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, D.C. 20594

Members: Malcolm Brenner, Ph.D.  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, D.C. 20594

Jodi Reeves  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Chicago, IL

Kimberly Petrone  
Association of Flight Attendants  
USAir  
Pittsburgh, PA

Patrick Forrey  
National Air Traffic Control Association  
Cleveland, OH

Robert Sunwalt  
Air Line Pilots Association  
USAir  
Pittsburgh, PA

### C. SUMMARY

On September 8, 1994, at 1904 Eastern Daylight time USAir flight 427, a Boeing 737-300, N513AU, crashed while maneuvering to land at Pittsburgh International Airport, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The airplane was being operated on an instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan under the provisions of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 121, on a regularly scheduled flight from Chicago-O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois, to Pittsburgh. The airplane was destroyed by impact forces and fire near Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. All 132 persons on board the airplane were fatally injured.

### D. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The sub-group interviewed by telephone or in person over 100 witnesses referred to them by police, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and USAir authorities and those individuals who contacted the NTSB on-site command post. Members attempted to contact witnesses identified in media reports, and visited locations near the accident site to solicit additional eyewitnesses. Six eye witnesses were children between the ages of 5 and 11, and some of the remaining adults had some aviation background.

Eight signed witness statements are included in this report as Attachment 1. An additional four witness statements that were prepared by committee members, and were chosen because of their detail or location, are included as Attachment 2. The location of these witnesses with regard to the flight path and accident site are shown in Attachment 3. The remaining witness information will be included in the public docket to be opened in Washington, D.C.

A compilation of witness information on several issues is as follows.

Witnesses generally agreed in describing the airplane as first being in level flight, then encountering an upset period with possible rolling motion, and finally encountering a steep descent or dive ending with impact. None of the witnesses observed the actual impact because of obstruction from terrain and trees. Many witnesses observed the airplane during the dive period, but other witnesses described the routine and upset period as well.

#### 1) Weather

All witnesses indicated the weather was clear and sunny.

2) Traffic

No witnesses reported air traffic near the accident aircraft, including other aircraft, balloons, birds or other objects.

However, five witnesses had reported bird activity the previous evening and the morning of the accident, ranging from flocks of geese to black birds. Six witnesses reported a small single engine aircraft shortly after the impact of USAir 427.

3) Objects departing from the aircraft

One witness, age 6, reported seeing a small piece fall from the tip of the left wing in flight. All other witnesses reported the aircraft intact to the best of their knowledge and did not observe any objects falling from the accident aircraft.

4) Aircraft Attitude

The vast majority of witnesses provided accounts of the accident aircraft during the final seconds of the flight. Thirty one witnesses characterized the aircraft as being in a nose-down vertical attitude. Eight witnesses stated the aircraft was spinning or spiraling in the vertical stage of flight. Twenty six witnesses reported the aircraft in either a left bank or right bank just prior to the vertical stage of flight, with the majority reporting a left bank.

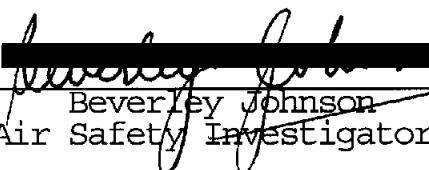
Eight witnesses reported first seeing the accident aircraft in level flight, with eight other witnesses stating the aircraft began a steep climb attitude prior to the aircraft entering a vertical descent. Two witnesses reported the aircraft inverted just prior to the descent.

5) Sound

Various sounds were heard by witnesses during different stages of the flight of USAir 427. During the initial upset, a number of witnesses reported that they heard a brief surge of power, surging, popping or revving. This period was reported to be followed by silence and then the dive.

6) Fire/Smoke

One witness reported seeing smoke coming from an area just in front of the right wing.

  
Beverley Johnson  
Air Safety Investigator

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**SIGNED WITNESS STATEMENTS**

~~RTL~~ (RTL)

CRASH OF FLIGHT 427  
WITNESS STATEMENT

To: <u>St. Helena</u>	From: <u>Naughton</u>
Co./Dept:	Co.:
Phone #:	Phone # <u>7361</u>
Fax # <u>3931</u>	Fax #:

FRED PICCIRILLI —  
PIT Heavy Maintenance Utility

Statement given to Karen Machika, Secretary - Heavy Maintenance on Friday, 9/9/94, at 8:38 am in the Manger #5 Conference Room.

- Mr. Piccirilli was on the Hopewell Youth Soccer field, located 1/4 mile (straight line) from the crash site.
- At approximately 7:05 pm Mr. Piccirilli heard the growling noise of an aircraft engine (like if it was powering up to take off).
- Mr. Piccirilli looked up and saw the aircraft flying horizontally in a northwest direction (away from the new terminal). Aircraft looked intact...no smoke or fire...just the growling of engines like if the pilot was trying to gain speed.
- Suddenly, the right wing of aircraft dipped to right and aircraft pointed straight down (completely vertical). Mr. Piccirilli stated that it almost looked like the pilot just decided to turn the aircraft into the ground, possibly to avoid causing more casualties on the ground. This is just a feeling he had.
- From Mr. Piccirilli's viewpoint he could see the entire belly of the aircraft. The belly looked like it was brand new, very clean. He noted the landing gear was not extended. Thought he saw a tail number of 521 or 512, but is not completely sure.
- The aircraft started to turn slowly to the left while still in a complete vertical position.
- Mr. Piccirilli then observed a reddish/grayish/brownish (sort of rust color) smoke coming from what appeared to be just in front of the right wing...not the engines or wing itself...coming from body of the aircraft right in front of right wing. The flaps on wings looked like they were in the flying position.
- Mr. Piccirilli did not see actual impact, however, he heard a dull thud when it hit...saw lots of smoke...no high flames...just gray/black smoke in a mushroom cloud formation. He did not hear an explosion, just a dull thud. The entire time lapse from first sighting the aircraft to the impact was approximately 20 to 30 seconds, maybe a little less.
- Mr. Piccirilli immediately tried to get to the site to see if he could help, but people were already blocking the roads. He returned to the soccer field to pick up his children.
- Mr. Piccirilli stated that the police, medical, and emergency personnel arrived almost immediately. He was amazed at their efforts and said everyone did not seem concerned for their own safety at the time, they all just wanted to get there and help as soon as they could.

This statement was transcribed from my notes as they were written on 9/9/94.

[Signature]  
—Karen R. Machika

: I have read the above statement and  
: agree it is an accurate transcription  
: of the statement I gave to Karen Machika  
: on 9/9/94.

[Signature]  
Fred Piccirilli



(2)

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

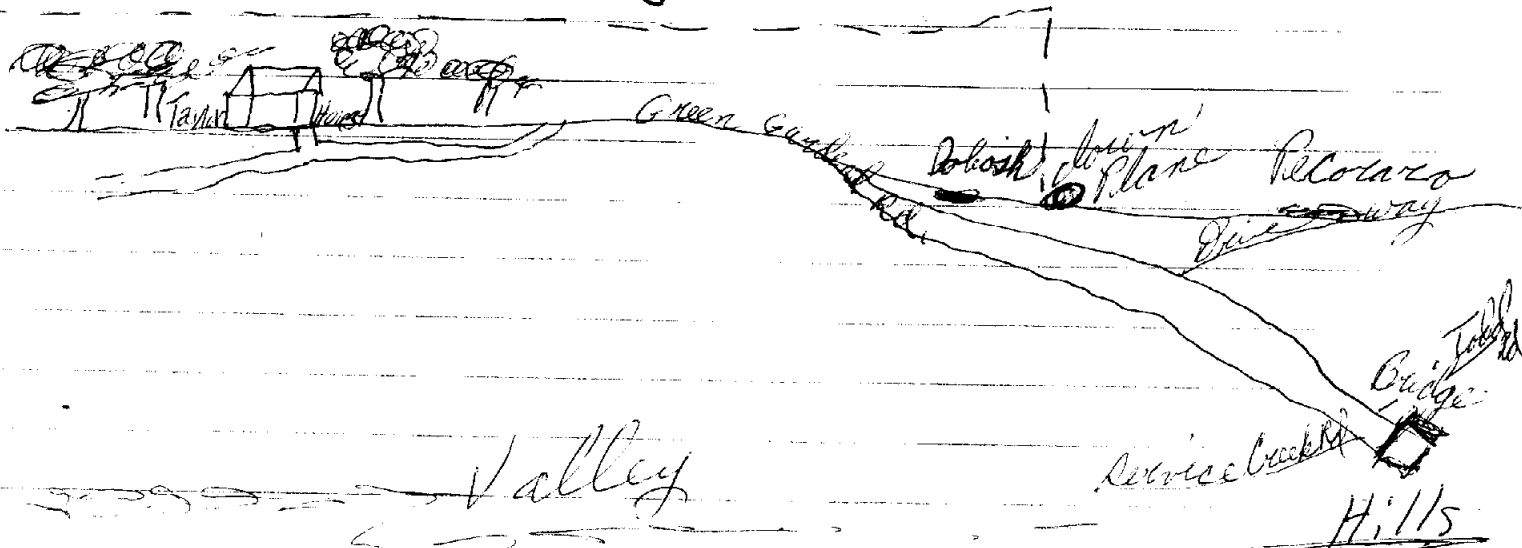
Didn't see any landing gear or could not tell the positions of the flaps, but could see the rivets on body

What were the weather conditions? clouds? winds? visibility?

no wind, clear, no clouds

What is your aviation experience?  
NA

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site. Draw a diagram of possible)



3

Did you see the actual ground impact?

NO

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first? as far as I could tell it was the nose

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

60 to 70 ft off the ground, <sup>over my base</sup> 200 or 300  
at impact, hundred feet off the ground, after the  
plane went down I heard a noise like a  
~~thud~~ can being smashed and thin popping  
sounds.



4

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

the unusual noise

What was the aircraft's position?  
(flight attitude)

It was flying level when I saw it over my house.

What was the sun position?

sitting in the west ~~at~~

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

the plane was causing the shingles on the roof of the house to flap up and down.

~~Frank M. Doyle~~

①

9/11/94

10:00am  
house visit

## Witness Questions:

Name: CHRISTOPHER Clark

Address: [REDACTED] Monaca Pa 15061

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Kindergarten student

Age (Date of Birth): 6 years old

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

plane flying low across the pine trees — left → Right  
made a left turn — funny noise  
nose down to the ground before disappearing  
behind the trees.

Did anything fall off the airplane?

Saw a tiny piece of the wing fall off.  
~~left~~ left

⊛ Was there smoke or fire? Misting?

Saw something come out of left + right engine

2

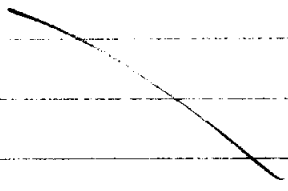
What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

landing gear ~~down~~ up.

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?

hot  
fluffy white clouds  
sky was blue

What is your aviation experience?



What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site. Draw a diagram if possible)

SAME AS MOTHERS.  
See diagram

3

Did you see the actual ground impact?

NO.

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops, bangs, whines...

zzzzzz h h h h h

Other airplanes? Traffic?

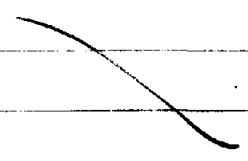
NO

4

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

IT WAS LOW

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)



What was the sun position?

SKY blue  
sun behind.

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

~~CHRISTOPHER CLARK~~

①

9/10/94

# Witness Questions:

10:00 AM  
house visit

Name: Denise Marie Mihalko-Clark

Address: [REDACTED] Monaca Pa 15061

Telephone #: [REDACTED] / Beeper [REDACTED]

Occupation: College Student

Age (Date of Birth): 25 [REDACTED] 69

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

my son Christopher noticed the aircraft & drew my attention to it. The aircraft was approx ~~100~~ ft above the tree line in straight, level flight. It began what seemed to be a controlled  $60^\circ$  turn that went to approx a  $35-40^\circ$  turn. Then suddenly it went R wing straight up <sup>(we saw belly of plane at this point)</sup> accompanied w/a whinning sound. There was a puff of white from the left engine. Then the nose went approx  $70^\circ$  down, tail followed and it disappeared <sup>behind the trees.</sup>

Did anything fall off the airplane?

No

Was there smoke or fire?

a quick short white puff from left engine, no fire or black smoke seen though.

②

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

landing gear was down but did not appear to be locked. It didn't look correct from my position. I did not get a chance to look at the flaps.

What were the weather conditions? clouds? winds? visibility?

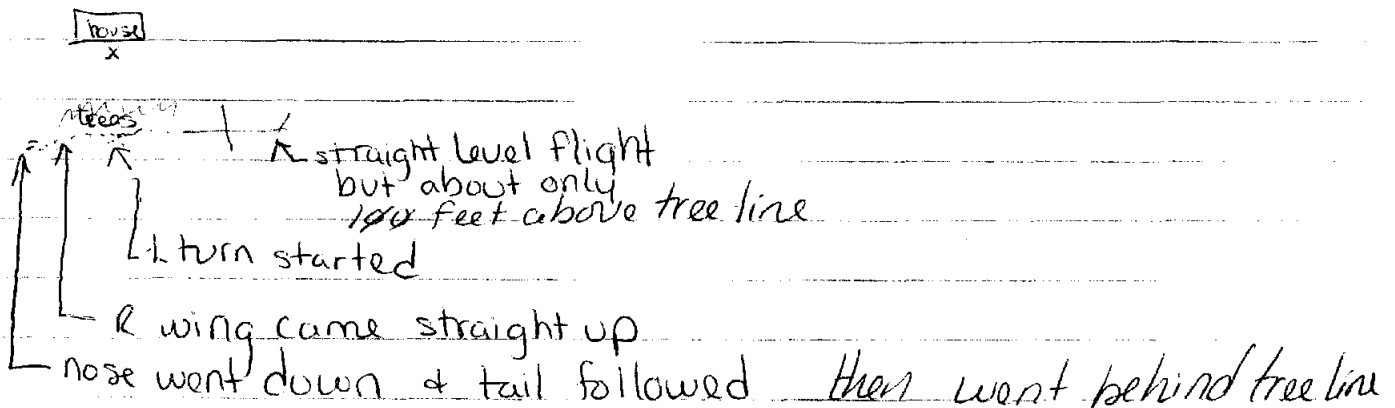
Visibility was clear - perfectly clear w/ only a few high clouds scattered. Wind: we had a fairly consistent breeze on the ground but it was light and not strong at all on ground. The weather was perfect for flying.

What is your aviation experience?

I have ATC training and an aerospace mgmt Ass degree. I have ground training for private pilot and a few hours of actual in air lessons.

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site. Draw a diagram of possible)

distance - 2 1/2 to 3 miles visual distance



3

Did you see the actual ground impact? NO

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

from my point I would say it hit nose cone first and maybe if the pilots were able to pull it up slightly the underside of the nose cone

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

from first seen at straight level flight approx ~~5000~~ to 4800 ft then almost straight down from there.

It went from straight, level flight to a gradual left turn to a 35-40% turn then R wing came straight up and nose went about 20% down to almost straight down



④

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

It low altitude then the whinnying sound

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

when first seen it was in straight level flight

What was the sun position?

It was behind me as ~~I~~ looked at the aircraft

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

I saw no birds or other aircraft in its airspace

Small aircraft seen about 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  - 6 mile distance <sup>that aircraft</sup> away

Witness Questions:

Name: CARL F. ANDERSON

Address: [REDACTED]  
NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSA 15064

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: SALES MAN

Age (Date of Birth): [REDACTED] 42

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

I WAS SITTING IN THE SHOWROOM - WHEN ONE OF THE SALES MAN YELL "What the Hell?" — this loud ruckus NOISE WAS RIGHT ABOVE my head. I jumped up AND GRABBED my head AND AS I looked up I SAW A AIRCRAFT HEADING TOWARDS SERVICE STATION AND GREEN GARDEN HILL.

Did anything fall off the airplane?

(NO)

(\*) Was there smoke or fire? misting?

(NO)

②

What were positions of landing gear & flaps? Could not see / Aircraft was TRAVELING to Fast.

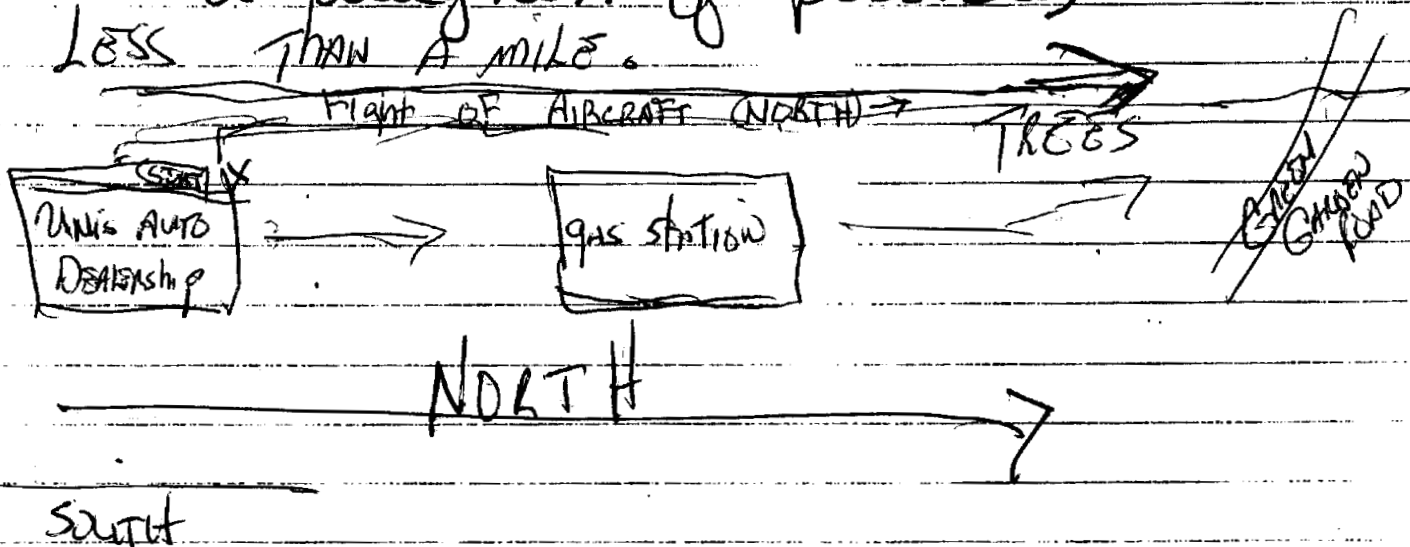
What were the weather conditions? clouds? winds? visibility?

CLEAR SKY & WARM

What is your aviation experience?

(NONE)

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site. Draw a diagram of possible) LESS THAN A MILE.



3

Did you see the actual ground impact? (NO)

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

~~None~~ (NONE)

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?  
less than 2000 Feet

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
pops bangs, whines.

IF you ARE Flying, when your AIRCRAFT lands, by landing on ground the ~~air~~ pilot, puts the CRAFT into a gear to slow the CRAFT DOWN - THAT WAS THE NOISE I HEARD.

Other airplanes? Traffic?

(NONE)

④

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?  
THE ROARING NOISE ABOVE MY HEAD.

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

HORIZONTAL WHEN AIRCRAFT WAS WENT OVER SERVICE STATION  
VERTICAL PAST THE SERVICE STATION THAN DECKING TO THE RIGHT  
ABOUT 30°, NOSE DOWN TO GROUND IMPACT.

What was the sun position?

(UNKNOWN)

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

WHAT I SAW, LAST LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS.

# Witness Questions:

Name: ROBERT CELLINI

Address: [REDACTED] ALLEGRA PA 15001

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: F&I MANAGER, SALES

Age (Date of Birth): 37 [REDACTED] 57

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

I FIRST HEARD LOUD ROAR OF ENGINES OVER BUILDING, WHEN I MADE IT TO THE DOOR TO SEE THE AIRCRAFT IT WAS ALREADY HEADED NOSE DOWN IN A SLOW LEFT TO RIGHT ROTATION HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE GROUND

Did anything fall off the airplane?

NOT THAT I HAD SEEN

(\*) Was there smoke or fire? misting?

I WANT TO SAY THERE WAS A GLIMISH MIST OR SMOKE NOT HEAVY

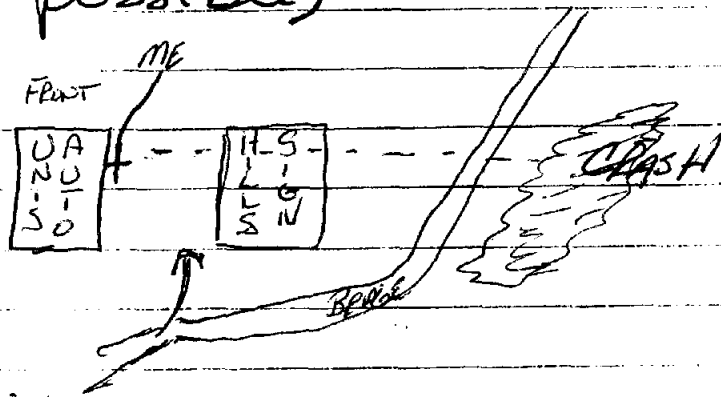
②

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?  
DIDN'T NOTICE

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?  
CLEAR, CALM

What is your aviation experience?  
None

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site, Draw a diagram of possible)



AS THE CROW FLIES  
LESS THAN A 1/4 OF A MILE

3

Did you see the actual ground impact?

No, TREES BLOCKED VIEW

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?  
NOSE FIRST

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

SEEMED GEAR NO POWER, AT IMPACT LOUD COMPRESSION SOUND, THEN EXPLOSION!!

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops pbangs, whines...

HEARD NO EXPLOSION, ONLY HEARD LOUD THRUSTING OF ENGINES, ALMOST LIKE FULL POWER, AT THE SCENE NOTICE POPPING SOUNDS LIKE SHOTGUN SHOTS IRREGULARLY

Other airplanes? Traffic?

NONE THAT I COULD SEE



④  
What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

THE LOUD ROARING OF ENGINES FIRST CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION. LOW FLYING

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

I NEVER SAW IT FLYING ~~UNUSUALLY~~ <sup>HORIZONTALLY</sup>, WHEN I PICKED IT UP IT WAS ALREADY IN A FULL NOSE DIVE TO THE GROUND.

What was the sun position?

TO MY LEFT, NOT TOO BRIGHT AND SETTING, DID NOT HINDER MY VISION

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

THE MORE THAT I PLAY THE SOUND OVER IN MY MIND IT DID ALMOST SOUND LIKE THE HARD THRASHING SOUND WHEN YOU LAND, IT WAS THAT NOTICEABLE THAT WITHOUT SEEING THE AIRCRAFT I KNEW TO GO TO THE DOOR AND LOOK BECAUSE IT DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT.

# Witness Questions:

Name: WILLIAM H. SEAWRIGHT (BILL)  
Address: [REDACTED] ~~W. Seawright~~

ALIQUIPPA PA. 15001

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Truck Driver, (DOBBS FOOD SERVICE)  
(PRESENT STORE ROOM CLERK)  
DEPT. OF AVIATION BADGE # 771

Age (Date of Birth):  
43 [REDACTED] 1951

## Describe what happened: What did you see? hear?

~~SA~~ I WAS SITTING ON THE FRONT PORCH WHEN I SEEN THE PLANE COMING TO THE LEFT OF ME, THE PLANE WAS BANK TO THE LEFT, BUT THE PLANE KEPT COMING STRAIGHT, WHEN IT WAS ABOVE MY <sup>→ ABOUT 45° ANGLE</sup> HEAD IN FRONT OF ME, I SEEN THE RIGHT MOTOR WAS COCKED (ABOUT 30° THEN NORMAL) ALL I COULD SEE IS THE BOTTOM OF THE PLANE & THE TOP OF THE BACK TAIL, IT KEPT GOING STRAIGHT OFF TO THE RIGHT OF ME UNTIL IT WAS OUT OF SIGHT.

## Did anything fall off the airplane?

No

## \* Was there smoke or fire? misting?

No

2

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

LANDING gear UP, FLAPS ?

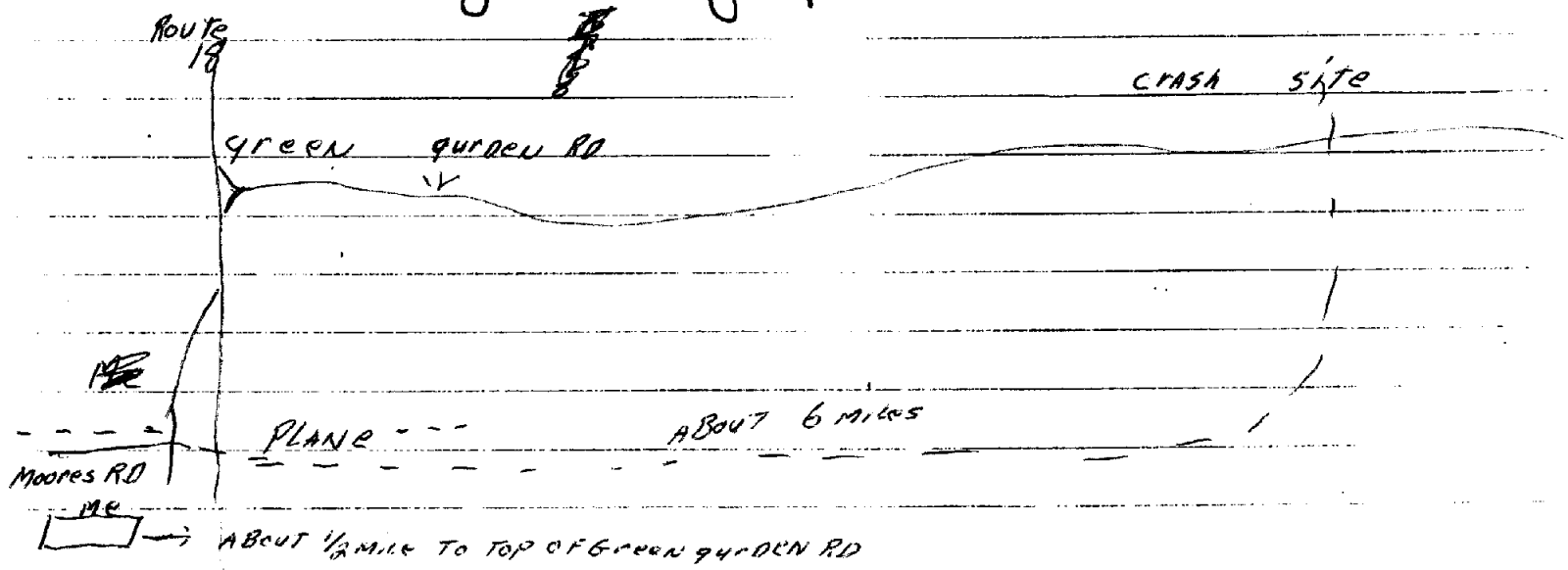
What were the weather conditions? clouds? winds? visibility?

Clear, Blue sky, few white clouds, calm

What is your aviation experience?

25 years, working on the field at the airport, loading food on the airlines present ~~at~~ DOBBs

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site, Draw a diagram of possible)



③  
Did you see the actual ground impact?

No

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

① Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? ② At impact?

① ABOUT 5,000' B?

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops pbangs, whines...

NORMAL

Other airplanes? Traffic?

① Large COMMUTER PLANE, NOT SURE IF BEFORE & AFTER  
ABOUT SAME ATTITUDE (TWIN-ENGINE) <sup>WHITE IN COLOR OR GRAY</sup> (NOT SURE)

(4)

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

IT WAS BANK TO THE LEFT, BUT KEPT GOING STRAIGHT, NOT NORMAL, RIGHT MOTOR COCKED AT ABOUT 30° ANGLE THEN NORMAL, I KNEW THE PLANE HAD TROUBLE, BUT I FIGURED HE WOULD MAKE IT (FRONT OF MOTOR TOWARD WING TIP) (BACK OF MOTOR TOWARD TAIL)

What was the aircraft's position?  
(flight attitude)

LOW, BANK TO LEFT SIDE, SEEN IT COMING TOWARD ME ON IT LEFT SIDE, BUT NEVER TURN LEFT, JUST KEEP GOING STRAIGHT, WHEN IN FRONT OF ME ALL I COULD SEE IS THE BOTTOM OF THE AIRCRAFT, & TOP OF BACK OF TAIL, AFTER IT PASSES, STILL ON LEFT SIDE

What was the sun position?

BEHIND ME & THE PLANE (THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PLANE)

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

NO

36  
9/12/94

①

### Witness Questions:

Name: PAT JONES

Address: [REDACTED]

ALLEGHENY, PA 15001

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: STOCK CLERK

Age (Date of Birth): 37 [REDACTED] 57

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

I SAW THE PLANE FLYING SLIGHTLY LOW. LOOKED AGAIN WHEN A MAN SAID LOOK AT PLANE, IT FLEW ON A GLIDE PATH SLIGHTLY DOWN, IT GOT WORSE DOWNWARD FLIGHT AFTER A FEW SECONDS, STARTED TO WABBLE, THEN WABBLED REAL DRASTIC, THEN THE LEFT WING WENT DOWN AND THE PLANE DROVE STRAIGHT DOWN TO IMPACT

Did anything fall off the airplane?

NO

\* Was there smoke or fire? misting?

NO

②

What were positions of landing gear  
& flaps?

DIDN'T SEE

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?

CLEAR no wind

What is your aviation experience?

NONE, I WORK FOR USAIR AND FLY ALOT

What was your position (distance &  
direction from the crash site, Draw  
a diagram if possible)

SOCCER FEILD ON SERVICE CREEK ROAD

3

Did you see the actual ground impact? NO

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

Lower than normal

~~unison~~

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops bangs, whines...

For a few seconds before it dove downward  
sharply it was like a throttle high sound

Other airplanes? Traffic?  
NO



④  
What attracted your attention to the  
accident airplane? I By Stander  
So Look At that AIRPLANE

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

Gliding down SLIGHTLY LOWER than normal

What was the sun position?

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**WITNESS INFORMATION SUMMARIZED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
THROUGH TELEPHONE OR IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS**

①

⑩

919

By telephone

## Witness Questions:

Name: John Medley Jr.

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation:

Age (Date of Birth): 11 years

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

Soccer field: It flew over our heads, started to turn over and go in nose dive, hit the ground, something - maybe engines blew up before it hit ground, I didn't see it hit ground. Turbball and black smoke

Did anything fall off the airplane?

I just heard an airplane and looked up. Regular engine noise. I fell off - no

Was there smoke or fire?

There seemed to be smoke from the tail pipe during the nose dive

There were explosion noises when engines blew up.

②

The airplane started  
started to ~~it~~ come down, then started  
turning right + to come up level, then it

What were positions of landing gear  
& flaps?

flipped over, stopped turning when upside  
down

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?

clear. not windy

What is your aviation experience?

I've been on an airplane once

What was your position (distance &  
direction from the crash site. Draw  
a diagram if possible)

Soccer

③

Did you see the actual ground impact?

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?

④

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

What was the sun position?

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

no.

Other witness:

Jason Mc KA  
was on TV he said it turned over  
a few times - I only saw it once

①

Saturday 9/10 @ 8:30 am  
Telephone.

(26)

## Witness Questions:

Name: Bill DeBo

Address:

Imperial, PA, 15126

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Sales Rep.

Age (Date of Birth): 36 years

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

His ear window was up and he did not hear the airplane.  
He saw it roll hard left as if it was taking off,  
rolled over and the nose went straight down.  
The aircraft was out of control.

Did anything fall off the airplane?

NO

④ Was there smoke or fire? misting?

NO

(2)

What were positions of landing gear  
& flaps?  
Does not recall gear or flap position

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?  
Clear, calm

What is your aviation experience?  
No aviation experience.

What was your position (distance &  
direction from the crash site. Draw  
a diagram if possible)  
He was located 2 to 4 miles from  
the accident site at the center exit.



③  
Did you see the actual ground impact?

No. It disappeared behind the trees.

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?  
Nose

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?  
Nose down attitude

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops bangs, whines...  
His car window was up.

Other airplanes? Traffic?

NO

④

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

The aircraft came into view as he was heading south on Route 605.

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)

left wing low, initially, rolled left and became inverted

What was the sun position?

The aircraft was illuminated by the sun

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

# Witness Questions:

Name: LARRY LABON

Address:

New Brighton PA 15066

Telephone #: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

work ext. ~~XXXXXX~~

Occupation:

Age (Date of Birth):

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

EXIT 60 RT NORTH - center EXIT

~~7:00~~ 7:00 clock plane turning back to airport

~~left turn~~ left turn ↑ Plane seemed low

In turn nose went down - 3 spiral turns - nose down.

1 counter clockwise


left wing pulled it down

- called 911

Did anything fall off the airplane?

★ Was there smoke or fire? misting?

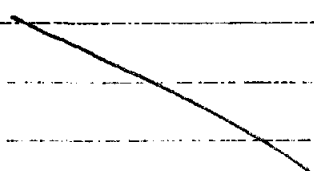
②  
What were positions of landing gear  
& flaps?



What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?

74° Beautiful

What is your aviation experience?



What was your position (distance &  
direction from the crash site. Draw  
a diagram if possible)

3  
Did you see the actual ground impact?

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

Estimate aircraft's attitude during descent? At impact?

low

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
coming towards you / going away...  
Pops, bangs, whines...

Other airplanes? Traffic?

④  
What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

ODD position - left tip was down

VERY large - because it was low

What was the aircraft's position?  
(flight attitude)

What was the sun position?

Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

1

9/10

## Witness Questions:

Name: NORBERT FERRENCE

Address: [REDACTED]

BEAVER PA. 15009

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: STATE TROOPER

Age (Date of Birth): [REDACTED]-43

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

NORTH on 60. RUNNING RADAR. Played lotto - just heard numbers - Knew it was 7:00pm. Looked up to the left. About 2,000 ft. overhead spotted an airplane. Absolutely no engines sounds. The plane turned to the left. No landing gear - no wheels. Then it rolled to the left + went straight down into the trees. Saw red flames + black smoke. Proceeded to call barracks + went to crash site. The time was 7:03pm.

Did anything fall off the airplane?

NO.

Was there smoke or fire?

NO.

NO.

②

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

LANDING GEAR DOWN.

What were the weather conditions?  
clouds? winds? visibility?

Beautiful WEATHER

What is your aviation experience?

DAUGHTER IS USAIR FLIGHT ATTENDANT

What was your position (distance & direction from the crash site. Draw a diagram if possible)

less than 1/4 mile from Aiquippa exit.



③

Did you see the actual ground impact? NO.

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

Estimate aircrafts attitude during descent? At impact?  
2,000 FT.

Try to clarify noises heard - get descriptions of engine sounds...  
Coming towards you / going away...  
POPS, BANGS, Whines...

NO NOISES. EARLY silence.

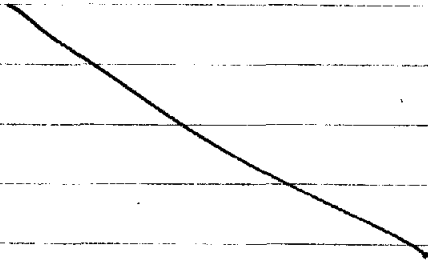
Other airplanes? Traffic?  
NO. NO.

④

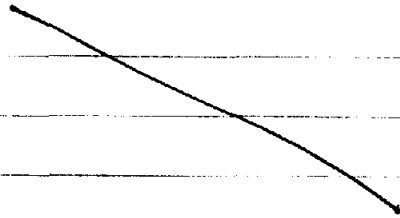
What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

AIRplane flying so low - it was gliding like a paper airplane.

What was the aircrafts position?  
(flight attitude)



What was the sun position?



Is there anything else you remember/  
or would like to add?

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**LOCATION OF WITNESSES WITH REGARD TO FLIGHT PATH  
AND ACCIDENT SITE**

