

DOCKET NO. SA-510

EXHIBIT NO. 4-B

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**SIGNED WITNESS STATEMENTS
(29 PAGES)**

By: Beverley Johnson

~~RECEIVED~~ (RTL)

CRASH OF FLIGHT 427
WITNESS STATEMENT

To: <u>Tal Machika</u>	From: <u>Naughton</u>
Co/Dept:	Co:
Phone #	Phone # <u>7361</u>
Fax # <u>3431</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 Hanger #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

Witness Questions:

GERALD TAYLOR

Name: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Address: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Telephone #: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Aliquippa, PA 15001-1022

Occupation: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Retired - Disability

Age (Date of Birth): ~~XXXX-XX-XX~~ 36 (58 yrs.)

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear? Airplane came across the top of the house. It was making so much noise you could hardly hear then I ran out the drive it nosed up and turned a little left and ~~rolled up~~ then went straight down nose first

Did anything fall off the airplane?

NO

Was there smoke or fire?

NO

N/A

(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

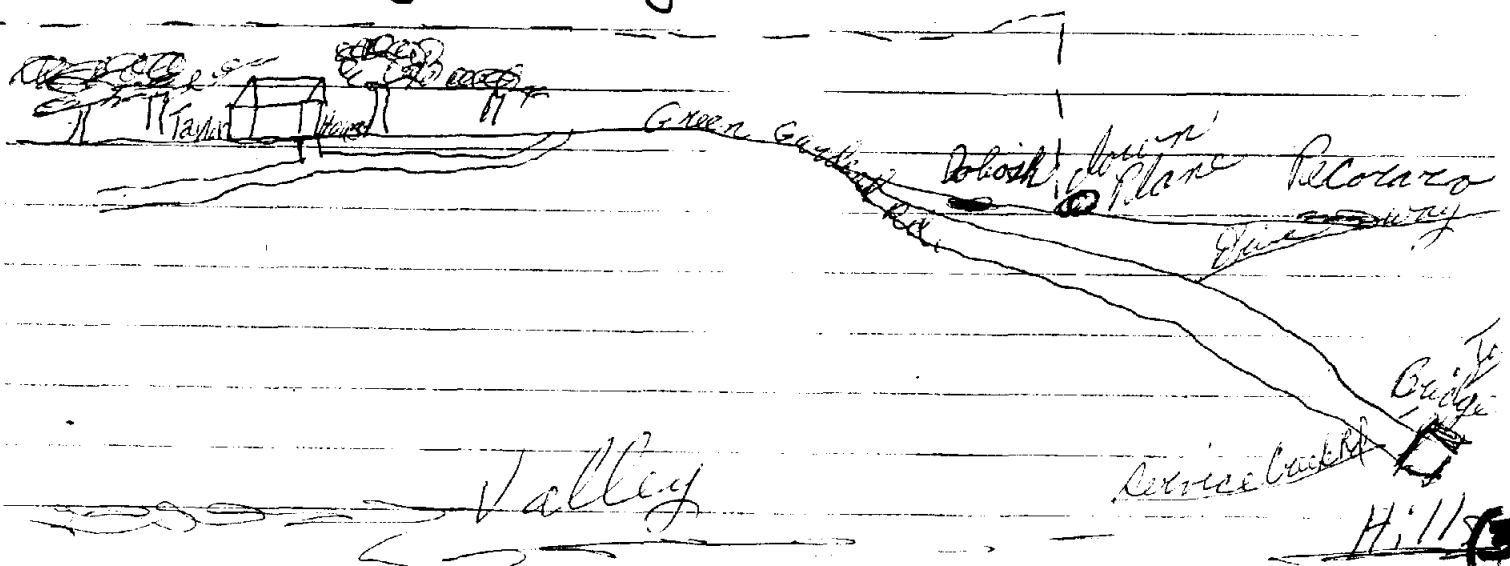
What were the weather conditions? clouds? winds? visibility?

no wind, clear, no clouds

What is your aviation experience?

NA

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



3

Did you see the actual ground impact?

N/A

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 ^{and my face} 200 or 300 ft off the ground, after the plane went down I heard a noise like a ~~thud~~ can being cracked and then popping sounds.

(4)

What attracted your attention to the accident airplane?

the unusual noise

What was the aircrafts 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.

~~Donald M. Doyle~~

①

9/11/94

10:00am
house visit

Witness Questions:

Name: Christopher Clark

Address: [REDACTED] Windsor Pa 15092

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}

④ 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 MOTHER
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 Pbangs, whines...

zzzzzz h h h h h h

Other airplanes? Traffic?

NO

(8)

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

⑨

①

9/18/94

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 $\sim$ turn that went to approx a 35-40% turn. Then suddenly it went R wing straight up ^(we saw belly of plane at this point) w/a whining sound. There was a puff of white from the left engine. Then the nose went approx 70% down, tail followed and it disappeared ^{behind the trees.}

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.

What were positions of landing gear
1 year?

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

What were the weather conditions?

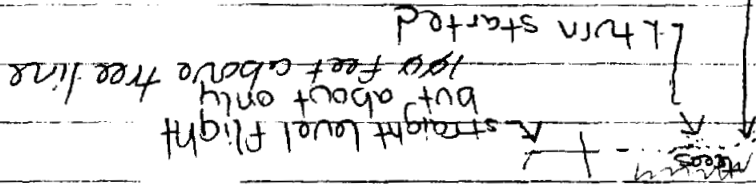
Clouds? winds? visibility?

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 if possible.)
distance - 2 1/2 to 3 miles visual distance



nose went down & tail followed then went behind tree line

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 aircraft 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 whinning 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 1/2 - 6 mile distance ^{that aircraft} away

③

9/12/94

①

Witness Questions:

Name: CARL E. ANDERSON

Address: [REDACTED] NEW BRITAIN, PENNSYLVANIA 15864

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: SALES MAN

Age (Date of Birth): [REDACTED] 44

Describe what happened:

What did you see? hear?

I WAS SITTING IN THE SPECTRUM - WHEN ONE OF THE SALESMEN YELL "WHAT THE HELL" - THIS BOYD RYBICKI 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 SHADEN HILL.

Did anything fall off the airplane?

(ME)

* Was there smoke or fire? Nothing?

(NO)

(2)

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

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

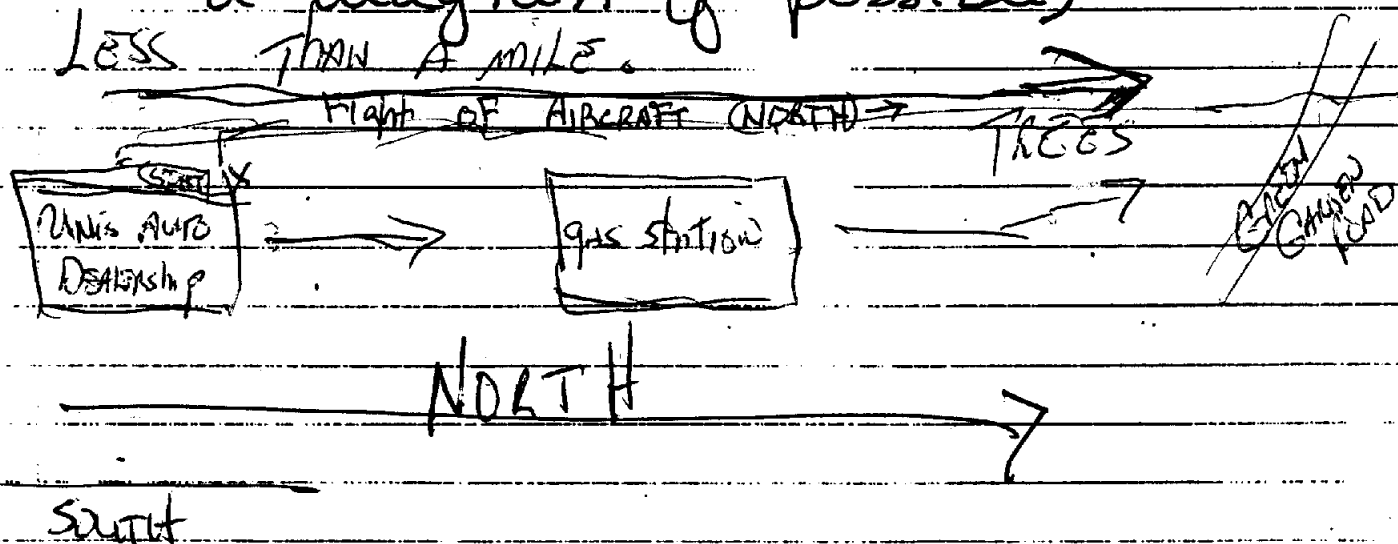
Clear Sky & Warm

What is your aviation experience?

(None)

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

Less than a mile.



③

Did you see the actual ground impact? (NO)

What portion of the aircraft hit the ground first?

~~Nose~~ (NOSE)

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 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 BEARING NOISE ABOVE MY HEAD.

What was the aircrafts position?
(flight attitude)

HORIZONTAL WHEN AIRCRAFT WAS WENT OVER SERVICE STATION
VERTICAL PAST THE SERVICE STATION THEN TIPPING 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 FOR LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS.

⑦

Witness Questions:

Name: Robert Cellini

Address: [REDACTED] Allentown PA 18001

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

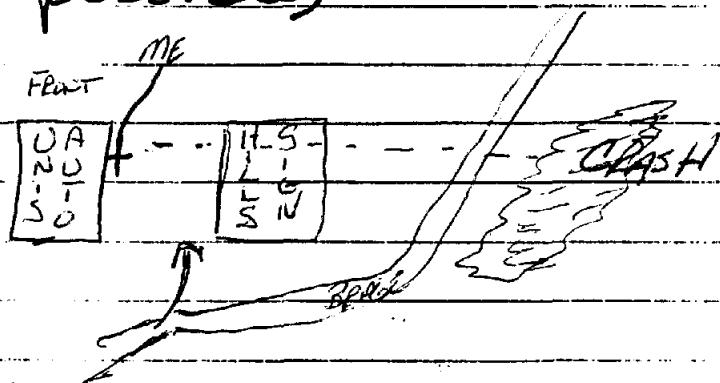
What were the weather conditions?
clouds? winds? visibility?

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 ~~like~~ 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 IRRATICALLY

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 ~~UNDERNORMALLY~~ ^{HORIZONTALLY} 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] ~~William H. Seawright~~

ALBUQUERQUE PA. 15001

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: TRUCK DRIVER, (DOBBY FOOD SERVICE)
(PRESENT: STORE ROOM CLERK)
DEPT. OF AVIATION BADGE # 771

Age (Date of Birth):

43

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 ABOUT ^{ABOUT 450 ANGL} ~~450~~ 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? Missing?

No

(2)

What were positions of landing gear & flaps?

LANDING gear UP, FLAPS ?

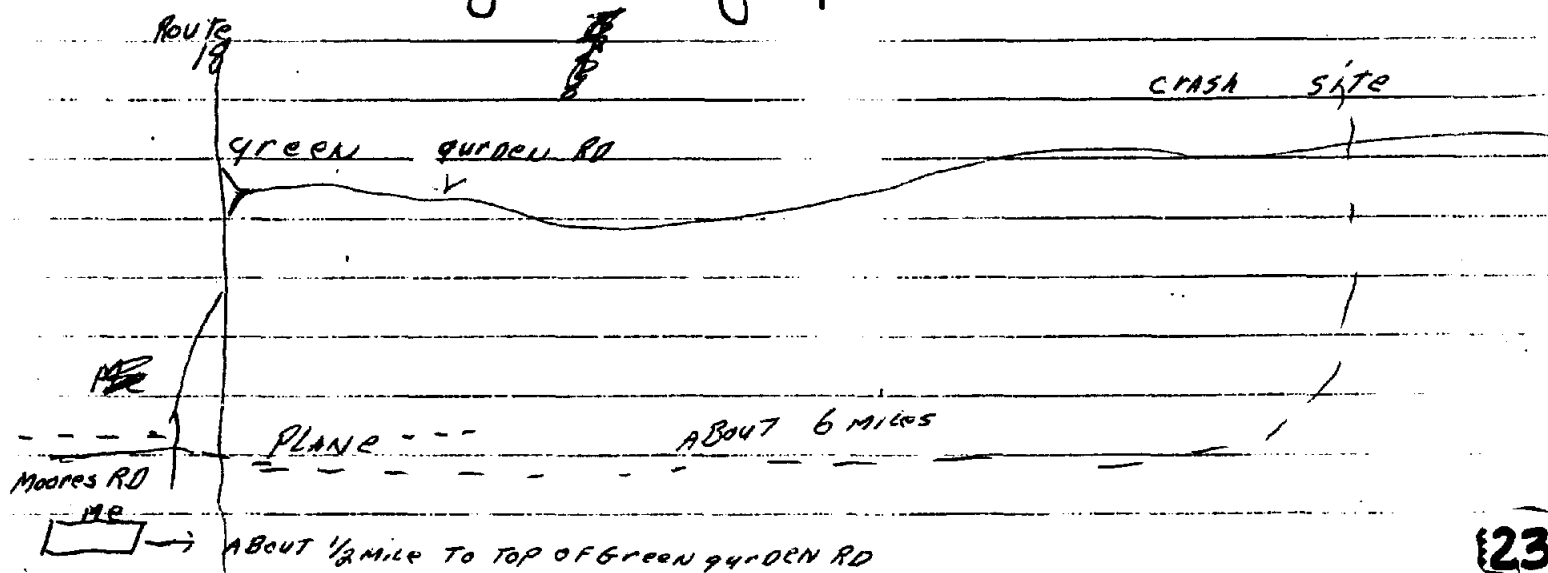
What were the weather conditions?
clouds? winds? visibility?

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 DOBBs

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

② 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) ^{WHITE IN COLOR} (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 PASS, 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

96
9/12/90

Witness Questions:

Name: PAT JONES

Address: [REDACTED]

ALLEGHENY, PA 15101

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Occupation: STOCK CLERK

Age (Date of Birth): 37 [REDACTED] 1957

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 Wobble, 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? Missing?

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 US AIR AND FLY a lot

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

Soccer Field 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

~~Low~~

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

For a Few seconds Before IT Drove 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?