

H.Q. No. 1300 - AJ186 - 1

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

SUBJECT VENTURA AIRCRAFT R.A.F. NO. **DA186**

ACCIDENT TO ABOVE AT SUMMERTVILLE, N.S.  
ON 25-6-43 P/O G.W. COMBE, P/O C.A. GRIFFITHS,  
SGT. C.A. MULCAHY, P/O J.C. LOUCKS ALL KILLED.

FOR CROSS REFERENCES SEE INSIDE COVER

REGISTRY POINT	STAFF OFFICER	DATE	REGISTRY POINT	STAFF OFFICER	DATE	DIRECTED TO
			KR			

*Return to [unclear] 12/1/43*

*plc 12/1/43*

*12/1/43*

*R.O. 7/15/43*

*12/1/43*

*Planck 4/9*

*Mulcahy 4/9*

*R.O. 7/16*

*12/1/43*

*12/1/43*

FILE CLOSED

TO BE REOPENED BY THE ISSUING OFFICE AND  
REOPENED OFFICER FOR A SUBSECTION  
OF THE [unclear]

1300 - AJ186 - 1

1200-41100-1  
600-4-107  
1200-41100-1  
600-4-104 (100)

Ottawa, Canada. 2nd September, 1943.

SECRET

Australian Air Liaison Mission,  
Linger Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Ans. 421392 Sgt. Ridgway, R.A.  
Ans. 422334 Sgt. Salsbery, C.A.

1. Attached hereto are copies of  
Proceedings of Court of Inquiry in the case of  
the above mentioned airman.

(T.K. McDougall)  
Wing Commander  
R.C.A.F. Records Officer.

Encl. 10

1300-AJ186-1  
650-9-189  
250-9-88  
1300-P2297-1  
890-9-94 (R02)

*P.A.*

Ottawa, Canada. 12th August, 1943.

REGISTERED

New Zealand Air Mission,  
Lisgar Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

P/O G.W. Cowie (NZ422262)  
P/O C.A. Griffiths (NZ421703)  
P/O F.A. Piercy (NZ41492)

1. Attached hereto are copies of  
Proceedings of Court of Inquiry or Invest-  
igation in the case of the above mentioned  
Officers.

*[Signature]*  
(T.K. McDougall)  
Wing Commander  
R.C.A.F. Records Officer.

Encl. MC

1300-AJ186-1  
22843 (R04)

15-7-43

Ottawa, Canada. 4th August, 1943.

REGISTERED

Canadian Pension Commission,  
Daly Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sirs:

Re P.O. J.C. Loucks (J26843)

In reply to your above referenced letter,  
attached hereto please find copy of Court of Inquiry in  
the case of the above named Officer.

As this copy is required for transmission  
to the Australian Air Liaison Mission, may return be  
expedited, please.

Yours truly,

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(T.S. McDougall)  
Wing Commander  
for Chief of the Air Staff.

*Handwritten:*  
J.C. Loucks  
for DMS/A  
1 Aug 7/43

ME

1/20/53 (110)

78 15/156


1st July/53.

Officer, Ops. 10th July, 1953.

Air Officer Commanding in Chief,  
Eastern Air Command, RCAF,  
Halifax, N.S.

Investigating Officer's Report -  
Accident to Ventura A/156 from No. 36  
SQU, Donfield Base, on 25th June/53.

1. Enclosed herewith are two copies of the Investigating Officer's Report on the above noted accident, duly approved.
2. While the cause of this accident remains obscure from a technical point of view, due to lack of evidence the possibility that the pilot became confused in single engine procedure cannot altogether be ruled out.

  
(P. L. Williams) O/S  
for C.A.C.

10/10



44,44 240  
21/1/43



OUR FILE 70 IN-AT 186  
REF. YOUR  
DATED

4 ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

July 1, 1943.

The Secretary,  
Department of National Defense for Air,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Ventura II A136 from Pennfield Ridge -  
Accident June 25, 1943, at Summerville, N.S.

1. As the four occupants of this aircraft were killed, two New Zealand, one Australian, one Canadian; three copies are sent forward while two are being sent to No. 12 Group so that they may have one for their files and one to be sent to Pennfield Ridge.

*G.A.P. Brickenden*  
(G.A.P. Brickenden) S/Lt.  
OF A.O.C. IN C., R.A.C.

A.B

3) I'm unable to advise to whom the  
Ventura engine will go. I will send  
it as may be possible that the fuel became  
contaminated and prevented the % to less height  
while carrying out in engine procedure.  
The apparatus to be most probable cause  
of the accident.

D.A.P. Brickenden 13 July 1943

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION NO. 1024

Date and Time	Aircraft	Unit	Occupants	Injuries	Place of Accident
25th June/43 1350 hours, 0 M.T.	Ventura II A7186	#34 O.T.U., Pennfield Ridge	P/O G.W. Cowie (Pilot) P/O C.A. Griffiths (Navigator) P/O J.C. Loucks (Air Gunner) Sgt. Mulcahy, C.A. (W. Air Gunner)	Fatal " " "	Summer- ville, N.S.

Object of Flight

Cross-country low flying exercise. 2500 feet

Weather

Visibility 15 miles (over land), 3 to 4 miles (over water). Wind S.W 10 Moderate to severe turbulence over land. Temperature 78°F. Dew Point 63°.

Pilot

P/O Cowie had flown a total of 3230 hours on service aircraft, of which 650 hours were on the type involved.

The Flight Commander authorizing the flight states:- "P/O Cowie was a safe and reliable pilot, a good average pilot with no weaknesses to my knowledge. Previous to this crash he had completed all his exercises satisfactorily."

Description of Flight

The aircraft took off from Pennfield Ridge at 1237 hours 0 M.T. on 25th June, 1943 for the purpose of carrying out a low flying cross-country navigation exercise. This exercise had been properly authorized.

The crew members were P/O Cowie, pilot; P/O Griffiths, navigator; P/O Loucks, air gunner; and Sgt. Mulcahy, wireless air gunner.

The aircraft was seen flying starboard wing low in an attitude which suggested that the starboard engine had cut out. At this time it was also observed to strike a tree, catch fire and crash, becoming a total wreck and killing all the occupants.

Findings of the Investigation

Cause:

"The cause of the accident at present remains obscure, although it appears that one engine (the starboard) had cut out and the aircraft was flying starboard wing low when it struck a large tree, caught fire, overspent, landing approximately 200 yds. from the tree. The engine above-mentioned may have cut out as a result of fuel starvation as there was a history of fuel pump unserviceability."

Recommendations:

"Nil."

Remarks of O.C.

"The cause of this aircraft must remain obscure, but the possibility of the aircraft flying too low should not be ruled out."

Conclusions of Accidents Investigation Branch

"The cause of this accident is obscure. There is not sufficient technical evidence to prove that the fuel pump had failed."

*Handwritten signature* ...P.F.O.

12700.

*1943 (handwritten)*

(Y.S. Wilkins) 0/0  
C.I. Accidents.

1300-AJ186-1  
12th July, 1943.

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