

Précis of records of Air Ministry Records AIR81/20632

Flying Accident Blenheim V BA243 06/01/1943. Aircraft destroyed.

Location: 70 Operational Training Unit (OTU), RAF Nakuru, Kenya.

Pilot RCAF Pilot Officer Frank Herbert Carr (CAN J.9363). Lost his life on active service.

Observer RAFVR Flying Officer Charles Frederick Strutt (129915). Severely injured (later returned to active duty).

WO/AG RCAF Sergeant William Bruce Nesbitt (R.70977). Slightly injured.

Air/Gunner RAFVR Sergeant John Allan Ross (1551448, Later P/O 196823). Slightly injured.

40 Pages

Accident Details:-

"The pilot was detailed to carry out a cross-country flight of 2 hours duration. He took off at 1135 hours and crashed whilst attempting to land at 1150 hours" (emergency landing). The accident happened "under bumpy and gusty conditions". With the "aircraft coming in at about 100 ft. There was a high wind blowing". The "aircraft struck the ground with the starboard wing-tip first, cartwheeled, and both engines were torn out. The fuselage back was broken"... "...Both airscrews were torn off"... "...Fire was due to the grass igniting from the exhausts which spread to the petrol escaping from the broken tanks".

Recommendations:-

Document 46883, From O/C 70 O.T.D To Air Headquarters East Africa.

Recommendation in Respect of crash of Blenheim V BA243 on 6th January 1943.

"With reference to the above Flying Accident"... "I would like to commend to the Air Officer Commanding"... "Sergeant Nesbitt and Sergeant Ross"... "both passengers in this aircraft, who were slightly injured in the crash, but had the presence of mind and courage to remove pilot and observer and put them in a place of safety in spite of the fact the grass around the aircraft had been set alight by the exhaust and petrol was spilling about which at any moment may have ignited. These two N.C.O.'s undoubtedly saved the lives of the observer and pilot at the time, though the pilot has since died."

Information posted to:-

Air Safety Network: <https://asn.flightsafety.org/wikibase/16340> 14-Apr-2025 06:23 Tim99

Sgt Nesbitt Memorial: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/169440225/william_b-nesbitt
Updated with details of Citation 14-Apr-2025

Flying Accident Hurricane IIb BG992 29/01/1943. Aircraft Destroyed.

Location: K1 LG (Landing Ground) Kirkuk, Iraq.

Pilot RAAF Flying Officer Frank Terry Britten (403553) of 208 Squadron. Lost his life on active service.

5 Pages 46885-46889

NOTE: This information was misfiled in Flying Accident Blenheim V BA243 06/01/1943

Accident Details:-

Forced landing after engine failure few minutes after take off, after half a circuit of landing ground. Glided across wind and made a sharp turn into wind at 200ft, endeavouring to land on the runway, stalled on this left turn, aircraft inverted and spun into the ground, finished on its belly badly smashed up, facing the opposite direction. "Owing to the badly smashed condition of engine and airframe it is impossible to determine with certainty whether the pilot was in any way to blame for engine failure."

Information posted to:-

Air Safety Network: <https://asn.flightsafety.org/wikibase/193191> 14-Apr-2025 06:23 Tim99

References:-

Information From: 45 JPG images RC7041471-a003b693-4f79-41d8-be10-c95dd9c6f81b_7041471_AIR_81_20632_001.jpg to 045.jpg

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