

13 March 1946.

At 11:30 of the 13th. of Oct. 1944 I, Mr. H.W. BOUWMAN, Burgomeister of Grypskerke, Zeeland, Holland, saw a 4 motor bombing plane rapidly losing altitude and had a section of its right wing missing. Before this time I had seen a group of planes and had heard the AAA batteries in Flushing. I had therefore assumed that this was one of the group that was hit and was having trouble. The plane was heading towards Grypskerke (in a northern direction) then it circled back (south) seemingly looking for a place to land. It was spiralling down, gunning its engines trying to control itself when it suddenly lost control and nose spinned into the ground. The plane crashed at approximately 1000 yd S.S.W. of the town of Buttinge at coordinates D 113320 in about 3 to 5 ft. of water.

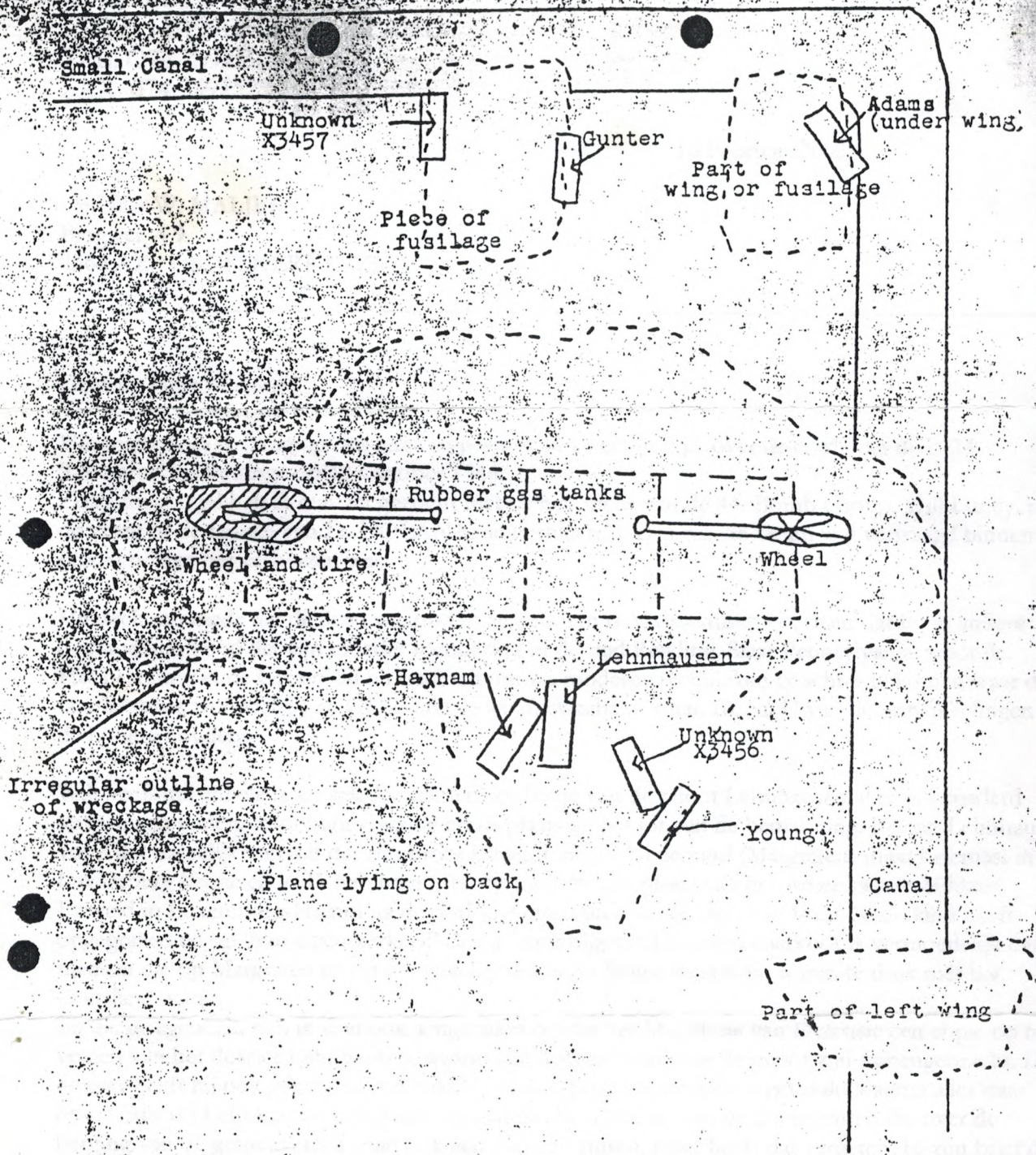
The island where the plane crashed was flooded with water usually having about 6 feet of water, and at high tide it would rise to 10 feet. Therefore most of the wreckage and the crew members, those who were pinned down, were submerged. During the period in which the water remained from the time of crash to about Nov. or Dec. of 1945, we recovered two American Aircorp men who were floating around, near the location of the wreckage (about 600 ft. away). One was Cpl. ERNEST J. DAVIS, ASN 34248774, who was later buried in Breda cemetery and the other ERNEST FUKA, ASN 18194833, who was buried in Middelburg cemetery, both were recovered one or two months after the crash. Cpl. DAVIS was later disinterred on 13th. of Sept. 1945 by a G.R.Co and ERNEST FUKA about the same time. I believe that they are both reinterred in the MARBRATEN cemetery.

After the flood was drained from the island I had a chance to look thr wreckage over. I saw the bones of some of the crewmen under the broken parts of the wing and fuselage (which was pretty well covered over with barnacles) and estimated that there were about 3 or 4 bodies located in the wreckage.

These facts are to the best of my knowledge all of the information I can recall about the airplane crash that took place at the above mentioned time and place.

H.W. Bouwman

Mr. H.W. BOUWMAN,
Burgomeister of Grypskerke,
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Map Series---NW Europe
 Sheet 2A-3A Walcheren-Amsterdam
 Scale-----1/250,000
 Town-----Buttinge
 Coordinates---D113-320