

Testimony of: T/SGT James L. Gaunt, AF 6 511 678

Q. Will you state your name, rank, home station and duty here?

A. James L. Gaunt, Tech Sergeant, Norton Air Force Base, 2904th Aircraft Repair Squadron

Q. And your duty here?

A. I guess it is crew chief - in charge of the ground work.

Q. That is turn around maintenance? Is that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you arrive here at Burbank?

A. I came here the 15th of November.

Q. Was 9068 here when you arrived?

A. Yes, it was already here.

Q. What type of maintenance do you do?

A. Just regular aircraft maintenance. Maintenance general.

Q. And you did some maintenance on the aircraft on the evening of the 16th?

A. Yes, sir, we changed a primer solenoid.

Q. Will you tell me what you do when you have write-ups on the radio equipment on the aircraft operating out of here?

A. We have to go through Lockheed to get those people, the specialist, to do it, we don't know anything about it.

Q. Since you have been here has 9068 had any radio difficulty?

A. No, sir, not to my knowledge.

Q. You wouldn't know about it if it had?

A. Yes, sir, I would.

Q. Do you know if the aircraft was equipped with search radar?

A. No, sir I don't know for sure.

Q. I understand that you had previously flown with the pilot, Lt Pappas, at your former duty station. Is that correct?

A. Yes, sir it is.

Q. Will you state when, where and what your duties were?

A. I was Flight Engineer on C-47 down at Warner-Hobbins, Georgia.

Q. And for how long a period did you fly on his crew?

A. I was just off and on. I flew with him several different times. Different dates, I am not sure, during part of '52 and first of '53.

Q. You were not assigned as an integral crew?

A. No, sir, I wasn't.

Q. Were you present when the aircraft departed on the morning of the 17th?

A. Yes, sir, I was.

Q. What time did he block out?

A. Approximately seven o'clock. I wouldn't be for sure of the exact minute.

Q. Did you observe the take-off?

A. I was out there and watched part of it. I did not get to see all the take-off.

Q. Was there anything out of the ordinary, or was everything normal?

A. Everything was normal, sir.

Q. Do you know anything about the activities of the crew on the evening of the 16th?

A. No, sir, I don't.

Q. Do you have anything you would like to add or offer?

A. No, sir, not that I know of.

I certify that the above is a transcription of a tape recording  
of an interview of T/SGT James L. Guant by the undersigned.

  
HARLAN E. MURRAY  
Major USAF  
Investigator