

a. Injunction
George's accident —

as I saw it.

R.H.

Aug. 1975

June 18 - 1971

4:00 P.M. Talked on the phone to Fannie Sheffield too long ^{and} finally made an excuse at 4:30 that I had to get ready for my 5:20 T.V. Appointment Show.

Showering - the phone rang. It was Colleen Stockton. (Need Time)

"How's George" - was her opening remark. I said I couldn't talk because I was already late for "My Show" - but she insisted I find out what was "New" because she had heard something on the radio about a ^{A.A.B.} downed plane.

I dialed the Antilles phone number - a girl answered ^{and} I said "this is [unclear] do you have anything to tell me?" She said - "Oh I can't talk" - "I'll have Mr. Gilles call you right back, I know!"

I finished showering -

4:55
The phone rang again ^{and} it was Gilles - I said yes, there was a missing plane ^{and} yes it was George. I said could I come

down to Operations to wait it out - Ed also
he said he'd call back with anything new -
I interrupted Ed said "I'm coming down."

I called Colleen back Ed said you call the
Station and cancel my show -

I called Nancy where C.A. was visiting Ed said
George is missing - keep Carrie away from
the phone and the radio, but bring her
up to the house. Chris was due home any minute
Ed Bruce was due at Nancy's - So I said
they should all come home and I'd keep them
informed. Together.

Dressed

Drove / rather speedily - To Quittles

Parked Ed walked up to Mr. Gilles office in
the Operations building. As I was approaching
his desk I overheard him say to a man
who had his back to me - "No I have
no press release for you at this time." So
I turned away - and walked back to
the one large office with windows -

Overlooking the Ramp.

It has now
been made into
2 offices

5:30

Much activity on the flight Ramp with things as usual with planes arriving and leaving. Business as Usual! I remember thinking why aren't they all looking —

Mr. Giles came in and said the ^{4:00} flight had not arrived at Farahado — and that he'd keep me informed.

Later — I think he'd been too busy to give me any search details — Radio messages — Navy alerts — etc.

People wandered into the room — but I don't really remember anyone specially. My friend Taja Andrew arrived about 6:00 and we sat together. Frank Downey arrived, but I couldn't talk to him and he wandered out again — these were the only non-A.A.B. people I saw.

About 6:15 ~~apt.~~ Frank Lillybeck came up and said I'm going to look. What I didn't

know is when he went downstairs he found Bruce and took him with him in the plane.

I saw Chris Shell - and that, what are you doing here, you don't even like George or me?

Sometime near 7:00 - Dark really coming on fast - Molly rushed into the room - "they've found the plane - and the pilots alright." - I said How do you know - and she said she'd heard it on the radio - I said Very loudly - and quite strained I'm sure - I'll wait till I hear from Mr. Gilles.

A long 10 minutes later Mr. Gilles came in and said the Navy picked up George and all the others and is taking them all to Roosevelt Roads Navy Hospital.
(NO DETAILS)

Hank returned with Bruce and I said he was overhead and saw Geo. being raised by

the Navy Helicopter - and he was alright.
I was finally convinced.

Jane Lillybeck arrived sometime hereabouts.

I told Toya to go home - and she said yes,
she'd go to ~~my~~ house and make sure the
kids were fed. Bruce then took my car
home cause Jane said she'd look after me.

All this time I was still in the same
back office.

8:00

I had returned and said "Bob Giles thinks
Jane and I should do some A.A.B. Public
relations work and we're going over to
Rossey - why don't you come along?"
I said well - if I could help.
(NO DETAILS)

Heard somewhere that an Assoc. Press Reporter
was around so I called Mrs. Hulschman
before she'd hear it on a ^{N.Y.} news report. I
simply told her - she'd best be a good
Presbyterian - because Jo had had

an accident — He was five tho, ^{and} in
a Hosp. in Puerto Rico. She asked me to
call her back later from P.R.

I called home - spoke to each of the
children. Nancy had been handling the
phone messages. Told them I'd call from
P.R. later — ^{and} I'd see them Sat. A.M.

I called My Mother - but Ceedey answered
and I said I'd keep her informed, ^{and}
she could recall Mrs. H.

~~Jan, Hank, ^{and} I went to the Airport.~~

As we left Antiles I remember asking
Mr. Giles if he'd heard anything else or
wanted anything from me — he answered
"No — Nothing."

8:30 — ~~Jan, Hank, ^{and} I left for airport in
their car. Had Prinair tickets (courtesy somehow
from AAB) but Air India was ready to go
so we signed in there.~~

I was paged on the loudspeaker.

Taya was on the phone, saying George had had a Nurse call me from the Hoop, and that he had a broken leg.

9:15

We left here ^{St. Thom} and arrived in San Juan. 10:00
Rented a car, have bought some sandwiches to go - and then drove to Roosevelt Roads. I remember hoping we wouldn't get lost - and have doing a lot of light chattering.

11:00 we arrived at the Hospital.

There were many nurses and ward boys - Everyone wore a smile.

The Doctor had left, but would see me in the A.I.
Geo. was in the large Ward, corner bed near the Nurses station.

He was flat in bed.

Nose drain in.

Many (90 at late count) stitches in face - mostly on right side.

Bloody looking.

He was covered up to his chin, ^{Ed} visibly shaking with shills.

heavy bandages or casts on both legs - but
all covered up.
His mood was happy - altho shaky, his
voice quavered

I hugged him - and we didn't say
much. He asked for a 7-up. I said
Bene and Hank were outside and he said
he'd like to see them.

I went and got them -
they went in to see Geo.

I found an ^{dark} unused room (they washed
baisens and bedpans here I found out later)
and thought I was going to throw up...
or faint - or have hysterics.

I didn't.

I put my head down between my knees -
and sat for about 5 min. A nurse came
in - didn't ask a thing, and said how
about some coffee - I said "No - but
my husband wants a 7-up." She laughed
wheedlingly - G.H. had been asking

9.
for a 7-up for about 3 hours.

The ice was broken somehow - and I went back to see Geo. Lillybeck said they would visit all the other "survivors," NOT to hurry - and they take me to Hotel.

Geo. then told me two P.R.'s went down clinging to the aircraft... and were evidently drowned. The Navy was marvelous - and this guy pumped right in to "all these sharks" to get him. There was a lady with them - (another P.R., E.H. and her) in one group - the other passengers had ~~swim~~ away.

There was a wash basin nearby - and I washed his face - it wasn't bloody, it was bruises... and it didn't wash off.

I figured he needed some sleep - so I told him I'd be right there in the A.M. Told him I'd call his mother - and I found Sue + Hank, and we left.

Drove to Hotel - Hank saw me to

my room — and I was alone.

I called the kids — car. busy

I called ^{ALLEN} home — car. busy

I called Mrs. H. — car. busy

I called Toya — car. busy

I called Mimi — car. busy

I called Colleen — car. busy

By this time I'd run out of remembered phone #s

12:45

So — I called Allettem, one more time I reached Ceedy. Mother was home, but somehow I just spoke to Ceedy. I told her to call Mrs. H. — and say that F.H. had a broken leg, and a damaged st. ankle, and some facial cuts — but he was fine & then to call Bruce, Chris, C.A. — and say the same thing — but to have C.A. pack me a bag — and Bruce bring it to A.I.B. for "Someone" to bring it over to the shop. Cause I'd be there awhile

Must admit here — when I turned the lights off — very privately, I had me a case of the way downs — loud — throat gasping Crys . . . and somehow I slept.

Sat - June 19 - 1971

Woke at about 7:00 - put the same tweed dress back on and had coffee with Jellybecks. We had to go to the air boats - for some reason (I stayed in the car) and finally got to the Hoop after 9:00 (LATE - I thought)

If anything - Geo. looked worse.

The word on the ward was out - Geo. was still in critical condition and he was to have NO visitors. Right away I decided if I could cope - become busy, useful - I'd be much better use to everyone.

About 11:00 - after rounds - Dr. Alan Hoxema said he'd like to see me in the X-ray room.

He had really done his homework.

Every X-ray of Geo. broken bones had another X-ray of how the normal bone looked attached to the side of it - so that - Darkened, the room was one whole story. Dr. Hoxema was

very nice to me. He explained slowly, and by example -
 the shattered right leg - we counted together 34 separate breaks.
 the Fractured left leg.
 and the Smashed (He said Pulverized) left Ankle.

then he explained how skin grafts would have to be done on large leg areas where flesh had been gouged out. He slipped over his facial cuts + abrasions saying it was minor. He explained future operation suggestions.

All this time I hadn't seen any of the wounds - YET

Afterwards when I saw Geo. I was quite vague about Dr. Hoxema's explanations - I thought G.H. could not "take" all that just yet.

I asked Dr. H - which was the worst leg? he said - Today - the right, over the ensuing years it would be the left Ankle much worse.

I asked what could I look forward to - he said - hopefully + luck - his being here for Xmas in a wheel chair.

I asked, and was given permission to eat in the hospital cafeteria - several people asked me to go out with them but I did not.

Sometime Sat. afternoon Bruce arrived with my clothes, which was a surprise. We returned to the hotel where I showered - had a quick dinner with Jellybecks and back to visit Geo.

Geo. H. was ^{still} running a fever and was still on critical list. He asked about Capt. Blair - but I said he was still "out of town". He asked me to stay with him - as the for strength.

Sometime Sat. I called home, and Taya and I planned together that she would bring C.A. and Chris over to "see" Geo. Saturday was Father's Day & A.A.B. does not fly on Sun. to Toledo - so this meant Brainer + Renting a car.

Bruce and I stayed till about 9:00pm Sat night and then he shared the other twin bed in my room.

14.

Sunday - June 20 - 1971 "Father's Day"

Bruce and I arrived early at hospital to find gitt. still running a Temp. There was the pneumonia worry - and I figured that was probably what it was.

Someone - probably three Pills To Hank - said I could charge Taxi fares To A.A.B. when I started commuting. I did NOT ask about my Hotel Bill I just charged it To A.A.B.

Some Time Sun. afternoon about 1:00 Toya Chris and C.A. arrived. Don't remember all of their Travel plans but I was pleased To see them.

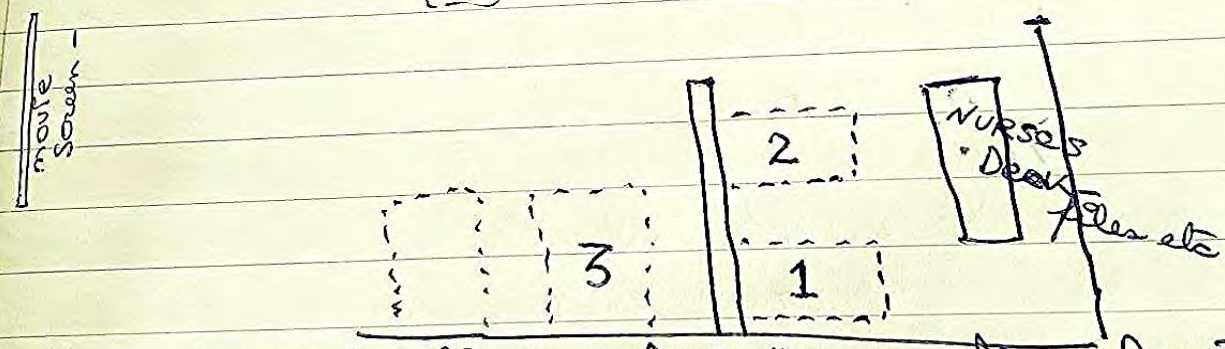
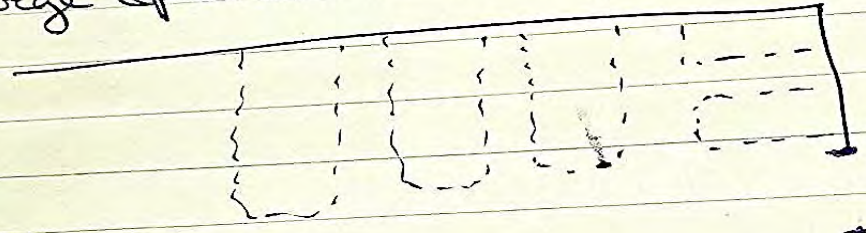
Corrie later said she almost threw-up when she saw her Dad's face.

It was really good that the children could see how he was - much bandaged and stitched - but the actual seeing was much better than imagining. They each took 5 min. chats alone with him - and by 3:00 they all left.

I ate lunch dinner again at the Hoop. - minimal charge - and everyone was friendly - I seldom sat alone.

I was becoming more useful - measuring in-put and out-put etc.

there were no set visiting hours - it was a large Open Ward - with perhaps 18 beds



Geo. started off in bed #1 - after about 2 weeks was moved to bed #2 - and then in another 2 weeks to bed #3 - where he was moved then to V.A. Hoop. I understood this system was used with the most serious cases - progressing as they got better.

After supper ^{6:00} on Sunday morn - they had movies. the beds were moved around - some beds pushed in from other wards & it was the high spot of the patients day.

that night they showed "Mash"

Part way thru the movie - they were still checking G.H.'s Temp every 30 min. Dr. H - arrived (In the Dark) says he - "I had an idea - here, you hold this flashlight" - and he proceeds to cut the left cast away in a $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ square. Me holding the flashlight - More continuing.

"Oh ha - Smell this" says Dr. H. "It's an infection, not pneumonia." He was happy - Jo. was happy - the nurses were happy and I had I'd throw up. Anyway they made a culture of the smelly puss and found out next day what the infection was & started treating it with the proper drugs.

G.H. got his medication directly thru his interavenous feeding Tubes which saved

on injections somewhat. I was very
conscious of someone looking at him every
15 min. I would visit with others - roam
the walkway ^{open} to the cafeteria and walk
down by the childrens ward - To give G.H.
a break too. Continued visiting is awful!
and frankly he wasn't up to visits yet.

9:30 When I left him Sun. mite I felt
tomorrow's new treatment would be
very important. He was still on critical
list.

Mon - June 21 - 1975

I decided I would go home today on the 4:00 plane, and return daily to the hospital. I needed to get away so I could come back with a better smile - besides I was needed at home and at business.

(NOT FOR PUBLIC)
 Found out later that our ^{live in} housemaid took her usual Sat + Mon days off and Nancy cooped with both dinners. - So I was really needed at home. ^{Winnie} She also borrowed \$ from Chris + Taya - saying she that she'd be forced if HE died!

Remember helping with changing dressings - J.H. was still FLAT in bed and couldn't really "see". I thought the bite wounds looked very deep - ugly colored - and sore. Fed over the ^{course} ~~passing~~ weeks visibly NOTED them healing. I could see them improving!

I left about 3:00 to get my AAB plane back to St. Thomas - but when I got to the ramp the station agent said Capt. & Mrs. Plain were arriving from St. Croix and I had better wait. He then suggested that

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since he was driving them to ~~San Juan~~ To
the airport to get a Primair plane back home
I could ride along and get home to St. Thomas.

So - I called home - Told Bruce to pick up
my bag at AAB and that I'd be home before
8:00 via Primair.

Capt. and Mrs. Blair arrived - we drove to
the Hosp. and they visited with ALL the
passengers and G.H. of course. I was struck
with Capt. Blair's - "Oh you'll be flying
again in 6 weeks when the cast comes
off - HAR HAR HAR." I never really
spoke up and to my knowledge Capt. B. never
had a talk with Dr. Hoxema.

Inwardly I kept thinking - "Poor
Geo" - it's going to be such a long time, and
everyone is so happy and well meaning -
while little ole Patty keeps plugging
away alone - and I felt alone.

5:00
But finally we left - and drove
back to S.J. - arriving about 6:00
at Primair. On the trip Maurine

Kept up a constant dialog about her past broken bones - Neither one of them really asked about Geo. progress.

Maurine says - "here Betty, hold my bag while I find my Primary Identification." He has his. Now we book the flight - they to St. Croix - 1.00 each. ~~and me~~ FULL FARE - out of my own pocket to St. Thom - I kept thinking - where is the GENTLEMEN in him? Oh - he must be kidding - but NO WAY. They never mentioned I was a piobets wife, and should get the 1.00 fare too - OR NOTHING - So - \$13.00 later - and really knowing I was alone in this struggle - I went back to pick up the pieces in St. Thom.

No dates — but more Hosp. thoughts.

I went — every day — Tues. thru Sat. To Puerto Rico — till Geo came home in Aug. 3 Months.

I rode in ambulance with him from Roosevelt Roads To V.A. Hospital.

At the 1ST month date, he was told by Dr. H., that he may not ever walk again ... but he did

George came home to St. Thomas on Thursday, Aug. 5th 1971, Almost 50 Days

It was several months later that he acknowledged that he would never pass the test to fly Commercially again. So he ~~studied~~ fell back to his college days at Bucknell, Studied & passed the VI Bar exam & became a Lawyer.

-LUB
- THOMAS - U. S.
1971

The Legal Issues were made very personal by Charlie B & his group of AIB Pilots. It was not a secret that George was a better pilot than most there, including CB.

George kept in contact with many of the pilots, that were also good friends.

Esp. Hank Lillybeck (wife Jane) &
Roman Wernochowski (girlfriend
Valerie Johnson)
⇒ many more.

George was invited to join the private QB group (Quiet Birdmen). You had to have flown a certain amount of miles & had to be invited by a current member. A Chapter of QB'ers was organized on JH, which he was president for a while!