

The B24 that crashed at Walgrave on the 17th June 1945 was from the 858th Bomb Squadron of the 492nd Bombardment Group based at Harrington and was piloted by 2nd Lt. Francis Sidorek. It is believed that the plane went into a flat spin and hit the ground following an engine failure.

The plane is believed to be a B24L Serial No 44-49523

The following personnel were on board the aircraft and were killed in the crash:

2nd Lt. Francis A. Sidorek, Serial No 0824269, 858th BS, Pilot

1st Lt. George R. Villforth, Serial No 08295595, 858th BS

1st Lt. Lie, 858th BS

Master Sgt. Lewis E. "Lou" Hart, Serial No 17011923, 858th BS, Crew Chief

Tech Sgt. John A. Wright, Serial No 35802062, 858th BS, Radio Operator

Tech Sgt. Sam H. Thomas, Serial No 18202586, 858th BS



Demise of "Hey Ride", ex 446th BG Carpetbagger plane
Crashed at Walgrave, Northhamptonshire, 17 June 1945.
Engine failure caused flat spin into ground. Photo
courtesy Paul Karr and the 801st/492nd BG.
B-24L 44-49523



(GAD-23-3-492)(17 June 45)(B-24 #49523)