

From: tommy doias [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:01 PM
To: Bettis, Louie (FAA) [REDACTED]
Subject: airplane accident witness report Thomas K Doias

I started running northbound on the Ozark Trail from the Hwy J Trailhead around 7:30-8 AM. I had been running for about an hour, or about 4 or 5 miles, when I heard the drone of a single-engine airplane. I remember thinking to myself "what a bad day to be flying" because of the thick cloud cover and mist. Then it sounded like the plane dove and accelerated quickly or tried to climb quickly by the sound of the engine revving high. The sound reminded me of the sound of a crop duster. It sounded like it was getting closer to me so I stopped and looked up to my right and I thought I would see it because of the sound. It seemed low and right over the top of me. I could hear the sound pass over me and it was so low I thought I should be able to see it. It sounded like it wasn't any higher than a few hundred feet off the ground, tops, maybe lower. Maybe because the cloud cover was so thick and low I couldn't see it. It went directly over the trees near me and veered away from me to my left. It sounded like it was smooth, then revved again, then sputtered, ran smooth again, then it sounded like it stalled, then backfired twice (POP POP) then BOOM I heard an impact. Then it was totally silent. I remember thinking to myself, I think I just heard an airplane crash, or maybe the airplane made an emergency landing on a forest service road and cut the engine suddenly. I kept running for about another ½ mile or mile when I ran into Deb Johnson hiking south on the trail and asked if she heard an airplane crash and she said yes.

This is what I remember.

Will it be possible for me to read the report when it is completed? I would be interested in knowing what happened. I wish I could have done something to help at the time but wasn't sure which direction to look and if I would find my way back to the trail.

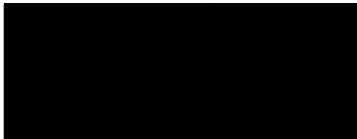
Thank you.

Thomas K Doias
[REDACTED]

Witness Statement

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, a little before 9:00 AM I was hiking south on the Ozark Trail from the Buick Rd./2231 trail crossing. The trail crossing is about 4 miles west of KK and the Doe Run Mine by road. I had gone a little over a mile on the trail when I heard a low flying small airplane briefly, then heard what I felt was the pilot trying to pull it back and then a crash. It all happened very quickly from the time I first heard the plane. I kept waiting for an explosion but I never heard one. It was an overcast morning and the clouds were very low. Once the pilot got below the clouds he would have been flying very low – nearly at tree top if at the top of the hills. After the impact I never heard another thing.

I had no cell phone service to call anyone at the time. I later went into Bixby and was able to talk to someone in dispatch.



Deb Johnson

10/8/19

