



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: June 1, 2016
Person Contacted: Mr. Thom Richard ([REDACTED]) – Witness to Accident
NTSB Accident Number: ERA16LA195 – New York, NY

This investigator interviewed Mr. Richard by telephone. He reported the following:

- He was in the formation with N1345B, following a Beech Bonanza photoship. He was #2 in the formation and N1345B, piloted by Mr. Gordon, was #3.
- They flew down the beach, then into the VFR corridor, next to JFK. They were about 1,100 feet agl and proceeding north, up the Hudson River.
- He heard Mr. Gordon on the radio say he had “smoke.” They were about 140 knots at the time.
- He observed smoke from the airplane, then he saw the propeller seize up.
- Mr. Gordon set up for a forced landing in the Hudson. The canopy was open, but not all the way. He observed the airplane ditch on the water, and then sink a few seconds later.