



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

October 14, 2021

Subject: N637HP, Robinson R44-II, 10/10/21, Cornwall, New York, ERA22FA010

Record of Conversation – Witness – Guy Inbar

On October 14, 2021, Mr. Inbar provided the following information via telephone and email:

Mr. Inbar was hiking at the time of his observation. He was at an overlook near the highest elevation point of the trail, which he marked on the attached map.

[That location is approximately:

N 41.430314

W 73.995205

The accident site was about ½ mile southeast of his location.]

Mr. Inbar, who was previously in the Israeli air force and familiar with aviation, reported that he first heard a loud noise which he believed to be from the helicopter's engine that drew his attention to the helicopter. When he looked to his left, he saw the helicopter in a nose down attitude (nearly 90°), at a high speed, descending nearly straight down. His view was of the right side of the helicopter. He observed the helicopter for about 5 seconds, before it was obscured by a tree line. The helicopter's nose down attitude, high speed and nearly vertical decent remained relatively constant throughout his observation. The loud noise also persisted throughout his observation. Shortly after the helicopter was obscured by the tree line, he heard an impact sound. He saw no smoke or fire.

<end>

Attachments:

Trail map annotated by Mr. Inbar

New York State Police Deposition

Storm King State Park

Mountain Road, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520

Park Office: (845) 786-2701
 Palisades Regional Office: (845) 786-2701
 Park Police: (845) 786-2781
 In Case of Emergency:
 (41.437836, -73.997040)



Parks, Recreation
 and Historic
 Preservation

- Legend**
- Bridge
 - Cemetery
 - Parking
 - Gate
 - Sign
 - Stairs
 - Trail head
 - Cemetery
 - Foundation
 - Scenic View
 - Roads
 - Railroad
 - Trail color varies
 - Unmarked Trail
 - Unpaved Road
 - 50' Contour
 - County Line
 - Parking
 - Storm King State Park
 - Hudson Highlands State Park
 - Water
 - Wetland

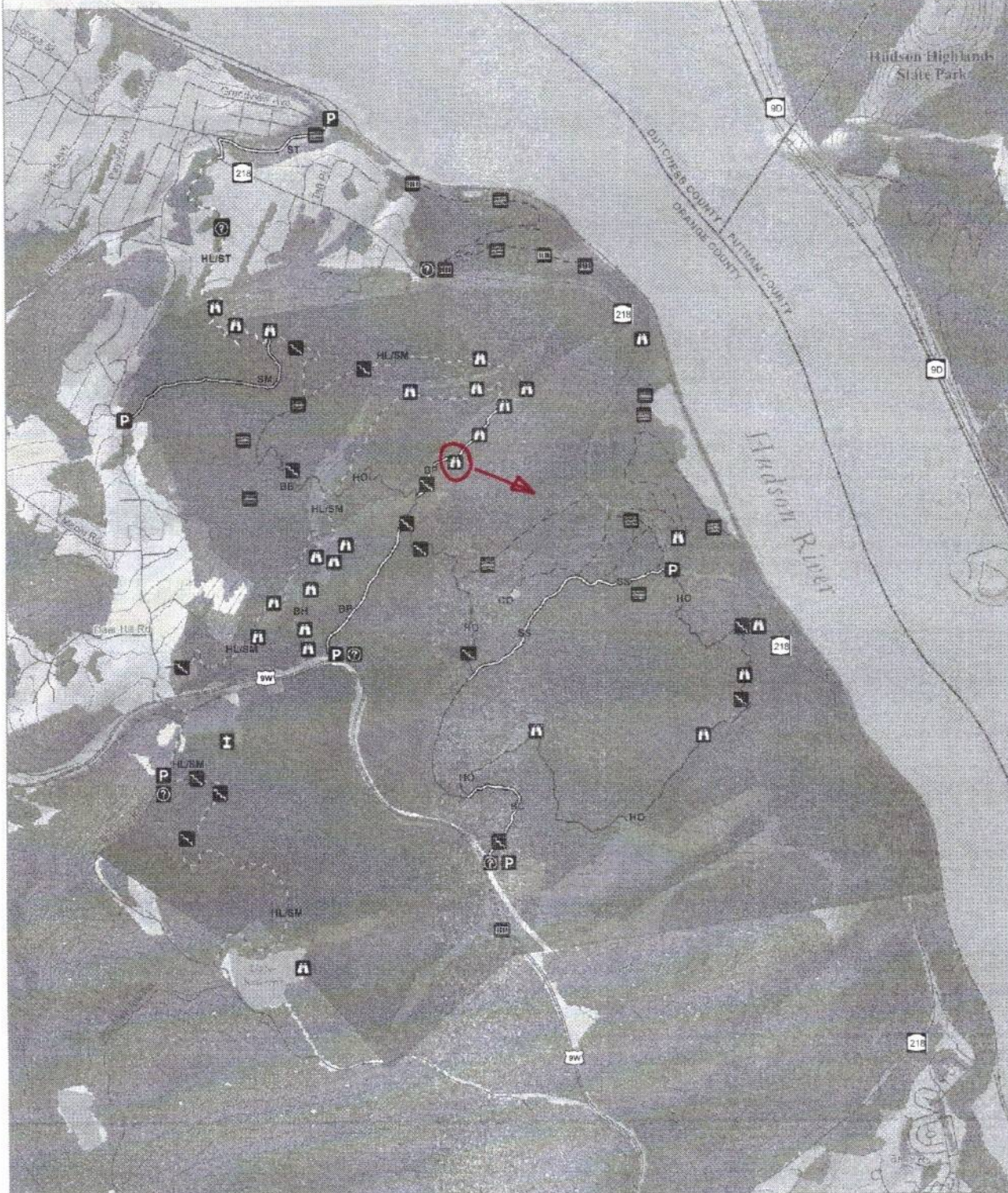
Trails

- BB - Bluebird - Blue/Red - 0.62 Miles
- BC - Bobcat - White - 0.37 Miles
- BH - Butler Hill - Orange - 0.44 Miles
- BP - Bypass - White - 0.80 Miles
- CO - Crossover - Red - 0.23 Miles
- HL - Highlands - Teal - 5.47 Miles
- HO - Howell - Blue - 3.45 Miles
- SM - Stillman - Yellow - 3.94 Miles
- SS - Stillman Spring - White - 0.72 Miles
- ST - Etsy & Helie Stowell - White - 1.32 Miles

Please be considerate of other park users.
 Please report any accident or incident
 immediately to park police.
 All boundaries and trails are shown as approximate.
 Be aware of changing trail conditions.



Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, January 14, 2021



SUPPORTING DEPOSITION (CPL §100.20)

PAGE 1 OF 1

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
-- vs. --

Defendant(s)

INCIDENT LOCATION:	LOCATION OF DEPOSITION:
STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT	STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ORANGE	COUNTY OF ORANGE
TOWN of CORNWALL	TOWN of MONROE

On Date 10/12/2021 at Time Started 01:22 PM I, Full Name: GUY INBAR	Date of Birth	No. and Street	CITY HOBOKEN	State NJ
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State The Following:

On Sunday October 10, 2021 I was hiking in the area of Storm King Mountain in the Town of Cornwall, NY. At approximately 2:00PM I took a break near an overlook. During this time I observed a white helicopter falling out of the sky. It was travelling nose down at a high speed and it looked like it was going straight down. I lost sight of the Helicopter because it went below the tree line. Shortly after I heard it crash and then I called 911.

Notice

(Penal Law §210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 12TH day of OCTOBER, 2021

- OR -

* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____

X [Signature] (SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

PO Michael A. Aviles #112 (WITNESS)

Tara R. Love (NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

Time Ended 10/12/2021 01:31 PM



Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

October 15, 2021

Subject: N637HP, Robinson R44-II, 10/10/21, Cornwall, New York, ERA22FA010

Record of Conversation – Witness – Victor Hoyt

On October 15, 2021, Mr. Hoyt provided the following information via telephone:

Mr. Hoyt works at the United States Military Academy, located about 3 miles southeast of the accident site, and is familiar with hearing helicopter sounds. At the time of the accident, he was hiking in the Storm King State Park, and was located at the parking area on route 218, at the head of the “white” [Stillman Spring] and “blue” [Howell] trails.

[That location is approximately:

N 41.426034

W 73.983934

The accident site was about 0.1 mile northwest of his location.]

Mr. Hoyt reported that the visibility was “clear”, the clouds were higher than the mountain peaks, there was no fog over the river, and he could see the river clearly from his location on the hiking trail.

Mr. Hoyt reported that he first heard the helicopter engine “falter and then die.” He could not see the helicopter due to the tree canopy. One to two seconds later, he heard a “swishing sound” which he attributed to the helicopter “spinning” or being “out of control”. Shortly thereafter, he heard a series of loud noises that he described as “backfires, at machine gun speed” for about two seconds, which he surmised was “the engine catching and the rotors slapping” and then the sounds stopped.

<end>

Attachments:

Initial email sent by Mr. Hoyt.

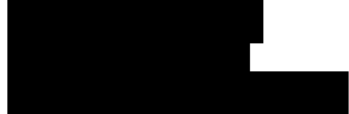
From: [eyewitnessreport](#)
To: [Brazy Doug](#)
Subject: Fwd: Helicopter crash NY 10-10-21
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 2:19:53 PM

Hi Doug this came into the eyewitnesses email.

Regards

Erik

Erik R Grosf
NTSB-Special Operations



sent via transatlantic cable

From: Victor Hoyt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:54:33 PM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Helicopter crash NY 10-10-21

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Regarding the crash on October 10 on Storm King Mountain, Cornwall NY.

I was hiking that day, and heard what I think was the beginning of the incident. I read a newspaper account from yesterday, stating the helicopter exploded in midair. That is not what I heard that day.

I work for the Army (civilian) at West Point, and hear helicopters all the time. As I was descending the trail, almost at Rt. 218, I heard the helicopter. It was above the tree canopy, so I could not see it. I heard the engine falter, then I heard the swish of its spin, as it lost control. The swish got very loud; enough to make me dive for cover. I still could not see it, but it was almost overhead. Then suddenly there was a series of loud backfires, machine gun fast, that I thought was the engine catching and the rotors slapping, and the sound moved away.

I waited for a moment, and heard nothing more. So I incorrectly assumed the pilot had regained control. I got in my car and left. I don't watch news very much, so I did not learn of the tragedy until Tuesday.

I'm not sure if this will shed any light on the investigation, but I thought I should share it. My location was just above the parking area at Stillman Spring, on NY Route 218.

Vic Hoyt

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-- vs. --

Defendant(s)

INCIDENT LOCATION:STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL COURTCOUNTY OF ORANGETOWN of CORNWALLLOCATION OF DEPOSITION:

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGETOWN of MONROE

On	Date 10/18/2021	at	Time Started 08:49 AM	I,	Full Name: ALEXANDER M HILL
Date of Birth	No. and Street	CITY	State		
		BROOKLYN	NY		

State The Following:

On October 10, 2021 I was hiking in the area of Storm King Mountain in the Town of Cornwall. I was approaching the top of the summit when I took a break to eat some food. As I was eating I saw a white helicopter dropping out of the sky, it looked like it was dropping like a stone. I saw the helicopter falling nose first towards the ground and I heard it make that classic "dive bomb" noise as it fell. I don't recall but the engine sounded as if it may have been straining. It looked as if it was falling almost straight down but it may have been coming in at a slight angle. It appeared to be falling not flying. It was a cloudy day but when I saw the helicopter it was below the clouds. I saw it continue to fall and lost sight of it below the trees. I then heard a huge crash and called 911 to report it.

Notice

(Penal Law §210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 18TH day of OCTOBER, 2021

- OR -

* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____

(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

(WITNESS)

(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

Time Ended
10/18/2021 08:57 AM

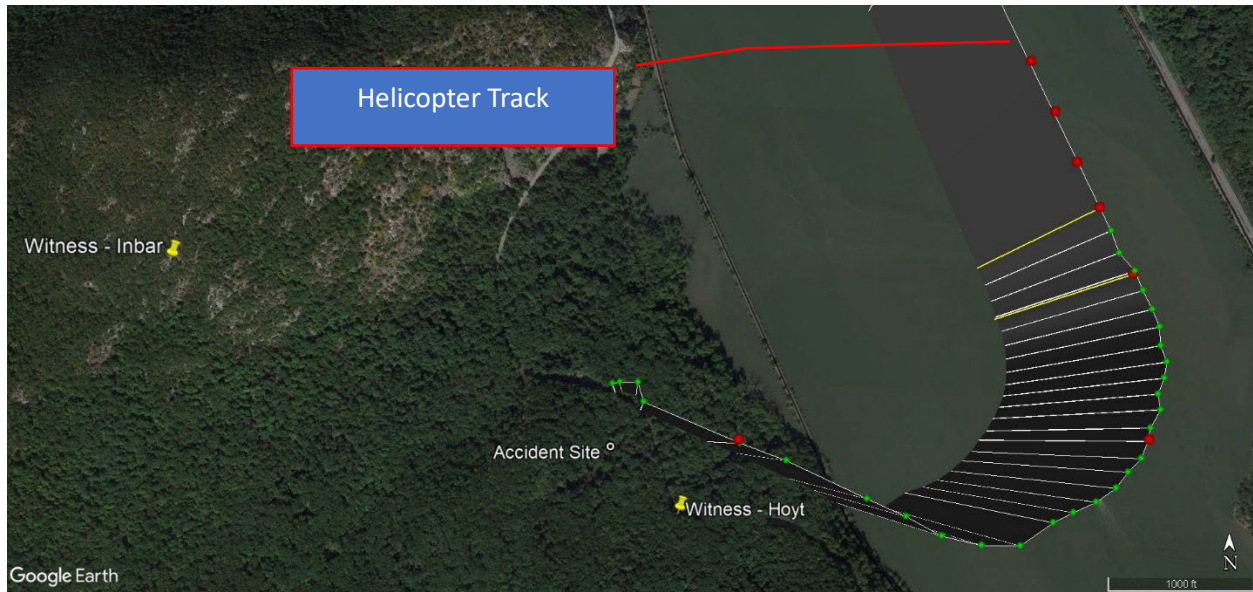


Figure 1 - Witness Locations