

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT THE CRASH OF MAX GARDNER

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PHOTO: Harlingen firefighter hoses down the remains of an airplane that crashed while performing at the Confederate Air Force Airshow '88 (AP photo)

Pilot killed during air show HARLINGEN, Texas (AP) -

A retired airline pilot was killed Saturday when the vintage combat plane he was flying crashed minutes after making a pass before an air show crowd of 20,000, officials said. No other injuries were reported. Authorities said Max Gardner, of Fort Worth, whose age was unavailable, was killed when the twin-engine Douglass A-20 Havoc Attack Bomber, believed to be the last of its kind, crashed about 2:45 p.m. in a cornfield about five miles south of Harlingen.

Few people saw the crash because Gardner had already flown past the crowd at the Valley International Airport and was about three miles away, said Herschel Whittington of the Confederate Air Force, an international group of pilots and air-show buffs who owned the craft. The Havoc Attack bomber was a fairly small workhorse used by American, Australian and British forces during the early stages of World War II, Whittington said. Harlingen police dispatcher Gale Jones said witnesses reported seeing the plane "flip over, do a nose dive, then hit the ground." Jones also said witnesses told police the plane lost power in one engine before crashing.

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Orlando Sentinel

Retired airline pilot...

October 9, 1988

PILOT KILLED IN AIR SHOW CRASH.

A retired airline pilot was killed Saturday when the vintage combat plane he was flying crashed minutes after making a pass before an air show crowd of 20,000. No other injuries were reported. Max Gardner of Fort Worth, whose age was unavailable, was killed when the twin-engine Douglass A-20 Havack Attack Bomber crashed about 2:45 p.m. in a cornfield about five miles south of Harlingen. Gardner had already flown past the crowd at the Valley International Airport and was about three miles away when the accident occurred.

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