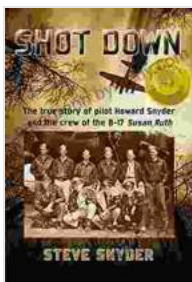


The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and the Crew of the 17 Susan Ruth



SHOT DOWN: The true story of pilot Howard Snyder and the crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth by Steve Snyder

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1973 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 331 pages
Lending : Enabled



On the evening of December 12, 1948, a United States Air Force C-47 Skytrain aircraft, the 17 Susan Ruth, took off from McChord Air Force Base in Washington state. The aircraft was carrying a crew of five and was bound for Lajes Field in the Azores. However, the aircraft never made it to its destination. It crashed into the Atlantic Ocean approximately 1,000 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

The aircraft was carrying a crew of five: Captain Howard Snyder, First Officer James Lynch, Navigator William Staton, Flight Engineer John Thompson, and Radio Operator Robert Hilliard. All five crew members were killed in the crash.

The crash of the 17 Susan Ruth is one of the most mysterious aviation accidents in history. There were no survivors, and the wreckage of the aircraft was never found. The cause of the crash is still unknown.

In the years since the crash, there have been several theories about what happened to the 17 Susan Ruth. Some people believe that the aircraft was shot down by Soviet fighters. Others believe that the aircraft crashed into an iceberg. Still others believe that the aircraft was sabotaged.

The true story of what happened to the 17 Susan Ruth may never be known. However, the story of the crew of the aircraft is a reminder of the dangers that pilots and aircrew face every day.

The Crew of the 17 Susan Ruth

The crew of the 17 Susan Ruth was a close-knit group of men. They had all served together for several years, and they were all highly experienced pilots and aircrew.

Captain Howard Snyder was a veteran of World War II. He had flown over 100 combat missions, and he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

First Officer James Lynch was a former commercial pilot. He had flown for several major airlines before joining the Air Force.

Navigator William Staton was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was a highly skilled navigator, and he had flown on several long-range missions.

Flight Engineer John Thompson was a former aircraft mechanic. He was responsible for maintaining the aircraft and ensuring that it was safe to fly.

Radio Operator Robert Hilliard was a recent graduate of the Air Force's radio operator school. He was responsible for communicating with ground control and other aircraft.

The Crash of the 17 Susan Ruth

On the evening of December 12, 1948, the 17 Susan Ruth took off from McChord Air Force Base in Washington state. The aircraft was bound for Lajes Field in the Azores. The flight was expected to take approximately 12 hours.

The aircraft flew without incident for several hours. However, at approximately 10:00 p.m., the aircraft disappeared from radar screens. There were no distress signals from the aircraft, and there was no sign of the aircraft or its crew.

The search for the 17 Susan Ruth began immediately. However, the search was hampered by bad weather and rough seas. The search was eventually called off after several days.

Theories About the Crash of the 17 Susan Ruth

In the years since the crash of the 17 Susan Ruth, there have been several theories about what happened to the aircraft and its crew.

One theory is that the aircraft was shot down by Soviet fighters. This theory is based on the fact that the aircraft disappeared from radar screens near the Soviet Union's airspace. However, there is no evidence to support this theory.

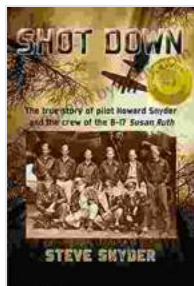
Another theory is that the aircraft crashed into an iceberg. This theory is based on the fact that the aircraft disappeared from radar screens near an area where icebergs are common. However, there is no evidence to support this theory either.

A third theory is that the aircraft was sabotaged. This theory is based on the fact that there were several reports of sabotage on aircraft at McChord Air Force Base at the time of the crash. However, there is no evidence to support this theory either.

The True Story of the 17 Susan Ruth

The true story of what happened to the 17 Susan Ruth may never be known. However, the story of the crew of the aircraft is a reminder of the dangers that pilots and aircrew face every day.

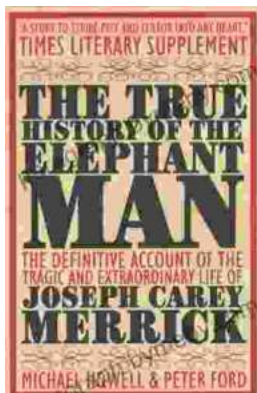
The crew of the 17 Susan Ruth were brave men who died in the service of their country. They will never be forgotten.



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