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Wreckage Identified as That of U-2

PANAMA, C. Z., July 30 (AP) — Wreckage found by farmers in west central Bolivia was identified today as a U.S. Air Force U2 reconnaissance plane that vanished on a flight out of Louisiana Thursday.

An announcement from the U.S. Southern Command headquarters here said the wreckage and remains of the pilot, Capt. Robert D. Hickman, 32, of Alexandria, La., father of six, will be taken to Oruro in Bolivia for shipment to the United States and a detailed investigation of the cause of the crash. Oruro is 52 miles east of the crash site and about 140 miles south of La Paz, the Bolivian capital.

U.S. officials said Hickman apparently blacked out because of a lack of oxygen early in his flight and the plane continued on automatic pilot to Bolivia where it ran out of fuel and crashed on a plateau.

Farmers near the Bolivian town of Llanquera reported finding the wreckage Friday. They trekked 24 hours to Oruro from the crash site, an area accessible only by foot and pack animal, to report to authorities.

Col. Louis J. Churchville, public affairs officer for the U.S. Southern Command here, said positive identification of the plane and the remains of Hickman was made by an investigating team headed by Lt. Col. Edward J. Fox, air attache of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. Fox and his team reached Oruro late last night and left for the crash site at dawn today.

"They will conduct a preliminary investigation and coordinate with Bolivian armed personnel to clear the crash area and collect the wreckage," Churchville's announcement said. "The wreckage of the aircraft will be moved to Oruro and probably airlifted from there to the United States for a more detailed investigation by qualified technicians of the U.S. Air Force, who will attempt to determine the cause of the accident."