

Seabee

Bulletin

FROM PERSONAL PLANE DIVISION OF REPUBLIC AVIATION CORPORATION

DEALER BULLETIN NO. 16

February 26, 1947

A GREAT FRIEND PASSES ON

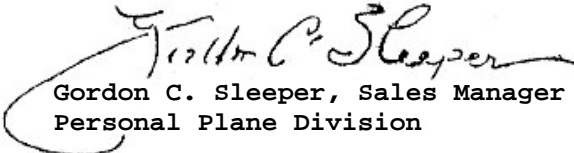
J.G. "Tex" Rankin has left us - his life taken by accident at Klamath Falls, Oregon, Sunday February 23rd. Tex took off in a Seabee from the local airport with Lanier S. Wallan, Jack Elie and M.J.S. Thompson, bound for a dealer's meeting at Victoria, Washington. They were slow in gaining altitude and apparently struck a 70 foot high tension line that overturned their plane, causing it to fall on its nose. Tex, Cy Wallan and Jack Elie were killed and Buz Thompson suffered a fractured arm and concussions.

The world knew Tex as the greatest of all stunt pilots but over ten thousand Army fliers remember him as their personal friend and as a great instructor under whom they learned to fly.

Tex had the great gift of making everyone he met feel the warmth and kindness of his nature. Great showman that he was, he was considerate of even the most humble. He was the personal hero and friend of every one at Republic Aviation. His visits to the plant were more important than any general's.

He was never too busy to remember others. He wrote a note of appreciation from Tulare to a boy at Republic who had given him a lift to a nearby town. He remembered at Christmas time to thank the young man and his wife who run our Pilot's Lodge in Amittyville where he had stayed when East.

Our hearts go out to the families and the associates of the three who lost their lives together and our prayers are offered for the recovery of the one whose life was spared.


Gordon C. Sleeper, Sales Manager
Personal Plane Division