

Murphy Pilot Link to Lufkin Crash Is Eyed

Chronicle East Texas Bureau

Lufkin – The pilot in the plane crash which killed movie star and war hero Audie Murphy may have also piloted a plane which crashed near Lufkin last year.

Authorities today are trying to determine if Herman L. Butler, pilot of the ill-fated Murphy plane is the same Herman Butler whose twin-engine Piper Aztec crashed near Lufkin on March 16, 1970.

The Lufkin crash, which ended in a heavily-wooded area north of the city, occurred after the big plan ran out of fuel.

The pilot, listed as Herman Butler, 43, of Shreveport, La., escaped with only minor injuries. The \$70,000 airplane was a total loss.

Pilot of the plane in which Murphy and five companions were killed was identified as Herman L. Butler, 44, of Crossville, Tenn., and a native of Louisiana. The body is being returned to Monroe, La. for services.