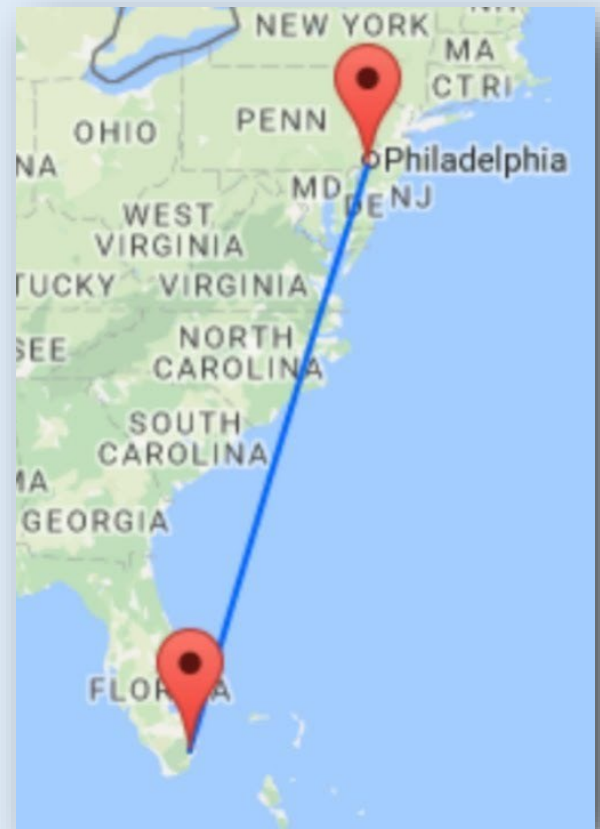


Historical Feature of the Week— Plane Crash

State Highway Patrol Officer, W. M. Whitley was first on the scene on July 3, 1945 at 3:15 in the afternoon. Crash equipment and personnel were called in from Bluethenthal (now Wilmington International Airport), Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, but unfortunately, nothing could be done for the 8 soles that were on board the Navy PBV-5 aircraft. The plane crashed one mile east of Burgaw in a small clearing in the woods off Highway 53.

A heavy thunderstorm was building over Burgaw that afternoon. Enroute from Miami to Philadelphia to pick up a new Navy plane, seven Brazilian Air Force Officers and one American Military Officer flew the aircraft into a cloud, exploded in mid-air and dove to the ground just outside of town. Officer Whitley immediately responded to the scene. All bodies in the wreckage were unrecognizable.

A military funeral with full honors was conducted on July 7, 1945 at 2:00 in the afternoon for the seven Brazilian officers at the New Bern National Cemetery. The American sailor machinist mate was identified as Dominic Nazacaro. His final resting place is unknown.



*Not actual crash photo