



by Matt Jackson

# "WHEN ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE"

A HOT DAY, A HEAVY WARBIRO, AND THEN AN ENGINE FAILURE

On Mark mailed this postcard to customers to show the types of Invader modifications available, including the mighty Counter Invader for the USAF



B-26 K COUNTER INVADER



ON MARK "MARKETEER"  
Executive Transport

ON MARK "MARKSMAN"  
Pressurized Executive Transport



I will likely remember the date of 6 June 2002 until they put me in the ground. I sometimes wake up at night in a cold sweat reliving this event time and time again. I have flown this same flight many, many times in my dreams.

We had just installed the new Pratt & Whitney R-2800CB radials on Howard Keck's On-Mark Invader N26BK. I had conducted several previous test flights with the new engines and had not experienced a single squawk. The installation had gone without a hitch. Pete Regina,

a Van Nuys Warbird legend, had assembled two magnificent QECs and the installation took less than a week to complete. Howard was excited at getting the first opportunity to fly his newly-modified Invader since the new engines provided an additional 1000 horsepower at takeoff with water injection being available. The slower turning propellers were much more efficient at cruise and yielded another 20 knots indicated at the same power setting.

This day, Howard wanted to take the plane on a trip to Dallas,

Texas. So, we loaded her up with 1100 gallons of 100LL fuel and four passengers. The departure was set at 11 am. It was a warm summer day and I had suggested an early departure time. Howard, however, was not an earlier riser so 11 am was considered his early departure time.

As we taxied from the hangar, the outside air temp hovered around 90-degF. I ran the takeoff numbers and at our weight and density altitude we were going to require 4000 feet of runway just to get airborne. The pre-takeoff check was normal and

Prior to the introduction of the Lear Jet and other small business jets, the On Mark Invaders were the fastest transport available to businessmen.