

'A DOGS LIFE'

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

ACCIDENT NO. 4-7-A DOGS LIFE

WAR DEPARTMENT
 U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

3-19-45

63

(1) Place OLD GATTON, NORWICH, NORFOLK, ENGLAND (2) Date 13 FEBRUARY 1945 (3) Time 2246

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24D (5) A. P. No. 44-40881 (6) Station AAF 123, APO 558

Organization: (7) KIOTH (Command and Air Force) (8) 450 Bomb Gr (9) 753 Bomb Sq (H) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL 10/1

DUTY	NAME (Last name first)	RANK	SERIAL NO.	RATG	PERSONNEL CLASS	GRADE	AIR FORCE COMMAND	UNIT TO PERSONNEL	TYPE OF PARACHUTE
1	SMITHSON, I. SMITHSON JR	P	0-719769	2d Lt	18	AO	KIOTH	PATON	MOORE
2	JENNETT, ALLAN E.	P	0-928696	2d Lt	18	AO			
3	CHENNER, LESLIE J.	M	1-131894	7/0	17	AO			
4	Ward, Robert L.		34776516	Sgt	38	AAF			
5	Weber, William L.		17166654		38				
6	Gandall, Frederick M.		34678977		38				
7	Hamilton, Gene P.		59136307		38				
8	Ordway, Grant D.		33407044		38				
9	Given, Charles E. Ira		35658818		38				

(20) SMITHSON LAWRENCE (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (21) 0-71 9769 (Serial number) (22) 2d Lt (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AO (Specialty)

Assigned (25) KIOTH (Command and Air Force) (26) 450 Bomb Gr (Group) (27) 753 Bomb Sq (H) (Squadron) (28) 1.23 (Station) (29) APO 558 (Station)

Attached for flying (30) (Command and Air Force) (31) (Group) (32) (Squadron) (33) (Station)

Original rating (34) Pilot (Rating) (35) 1.5 Apr 44 (Date) Present rating (36) P11.04 (Rating) (37) 15 Apr 44 (Date) Instrument rating (38) 12 Aug 44 (Date)

Flight Pilot Hours: (at the time of this accident) TC - 1

(39) This type 206:50 (40) Instrument time last 6 months 97:35
 (41) This model 150:20 (41) Instrument time last 30 days 3:45
 (42) Last 90 days 7:05 (42) Night time last 6 months 20:30
 (43) Total 206:50 (43) Night time last 30 days 1:00

play - 2 AIRCRAFT DAMAGE File

DAMAGE				(44) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS			
(45) Aircraft	✓	1	1				
(46) Engine(s)	✓	1	1				
(47) Propeller(s)	✓	1	1				

(48) Weather at the time of accident 1 mil e visibility - 10/10 clouds at 3,500' - Wind NWV at 15mph
Light drizzle

(49) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident NO
 (50) Cleared from AAF 123 (51) NO To AAF 123 (52) Kind of clearance Contact

(53) Pilot's mission PRACTICE

(54) Nature of accident Crashed while attempting to make emergency landing after take off.

(55) Cause of accident UNIDENTIFIED - LOGG

(56) No Form 54 being submitted. 02 CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED TO RESTRICTED

BY AUTHORITY OF CB RME
RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

Doc 1-

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

(Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition)

At approximately 1246 hours on 13 February 1945, B-24 J, No. 44-40281 crashed about one mile South East of Station 123. Ship had just taken off on a practice mission, with a crew of nine (9) and 2,700 gallons of gasoline.

Pilot contacted tower shortly after take-off reporting a runaway prop, ship was cleared to land immediately, but crashed before landing could be accomplished.

No evidence could be obtained from the crash as the ship was completely destroyed by fire.

Cause of accident is 100% unknown.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That all B-24 Pilots be reminded of the necessity of their meeting satisfactory Emergency Procedure Requirements, especially the danger of turning into a dead engine.

James H. Isbell
JAMES H. ISBELL
Colonel, AG
President

James A. Hogg
JAMES A. HOGG
Lt Col, AG

Karl and H. Hill
ROLAND H. HILL
Major, AG



Signature (Investigating Officer)

.....
.....
.....

Date 16 February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

STATEMENT

On our way to town Tuesday 11/30/45 Goodroe, Carlisle, Saylor and T/Sgt Jettis and myself noticed a J-4 airplane with ~~the engine feathered~~. At this time the airplane was flying at about 700 feet parallel with runway 23. We were on Yifers Lane and he passed directly over us. He continued to fly south for about a mile and then started turning to the left. He was skidding rather than banking it, however, the left wing would drop and he would bring it back up. He still didn't seem to be in trouble and had the airplane headed North East when the airplane went into a glide. He was almost out of sight behind the trees when the left wing dropped verticle and he went in out of sight behind the trees. After about ten seconds flames and black smoke came up.

M. J. Kirby F. Hayward
1st Sgt Kirby F. Hayward
Line Chief
752nd Bomb Sq. (H)

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FLIGHT CONTROL
AAF 123 ABO 558

13 FEBRUARY 1945.

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT
TO : TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

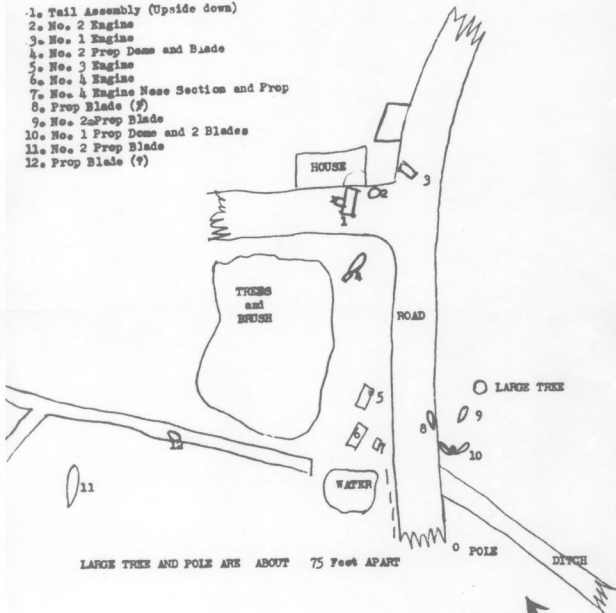
1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1246, LIBERATOR 281-Q, PILOT
LT. SHANNON, CRASHED INTO VILLAGE OF OLD CATTON. HE HAD
JUST TAKEN OFF ON A PRACTICE MISSION AND WAS AIRBORNE ONLY
A FEW MINUTES, HE CALLED IN ON RADIO, REPORTING A RUNAWAY
PROP AND WAS GIVEN CLEARANCE TO LAND ON R/W 28. HE CRASHED
TURNING ONTO BASE LEG, ALL OF THE CREW BEING KILLED AND
AIRCRAFT COMPLETELY WRECKED.

Raymond M. Eldridge
RAYMOND M. ELDRIDGE
1ST LT., AC
FLIGHT CONTROL

CC:
2 COPIES FORM 14
1 COPY TO FILE

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1. Tail Assembly (Upside down)
2. No. 2 Engine
3. No. 1 Engine
4. No. 2 Prop Dome and Blade
5. No. 3 Engine
6. No. 4 Engine
7. No. 4 Engine Nose Section and Prop
8. Prop Blade (7)
9. No. 2 Prop Blade
10. No. 1 Prop Dome and 2 Blades
11. No. 2 Prop Blade
12. Prop Blade (7)



LARGE TREE AND POLE ARE ABOUT 75 Feet APART

DIRECTION
OF
APPROACH

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TO BE FILLED IN BY STATION

STATION SERIAL No.	DATE SUBMITTED
45-336	14 Mar 45

UNSATISFACTORY REPORT.
(See AAF Reg. 15-54 for information on Proper Use of this Form)

LEAVE BLANK

A. S. C. SERIAL No.	REFER TO	CLASS

STATION AAF 123 APO 558		ORGANIZATION 753 Bomb Sq (H) 458 Bomb Gp (H)	
SUBJECT OF REPORT 02-A Engine Assy, Complete	Property Class—Name	Manufacturer Chevrolet	AAF Order or Shipping No.
AIRCRAFT—Model & AAF Serial No. R-21J-155-CO 14-40281		ENGINE—Model & AAF Serial No. R-1830-65 U 329536	
AIRCRAFT REPORTS ONLY LAST O. I. E.—Dept New		Hours	Flying Time Class 520:35
ENGINE REPORTS ONLY LAST OVERHAUL—Dept New		Hours Since 243:05	Deposits and Hours (45 Each Previous Overhaul) None
PART Name		Part Drawing, Serial and Specification No.	
Time in Use	Quantity on Hand	Quantity Known Defective	No. Previous Failures
Indicate by check Disposition of Exhibit	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographed and Prints Kept	<input type="checkbox"/> Held for Instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> Sent Under Separate Cover
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sent in Attached Package	<input type="checkbox"/> Repaired and Returned to Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disposed of (Specify Below)
			<input type="checkbox"/> To Overhaul Facility (MTR445)

GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS, PROBABLE CAUSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS BELOW:
(Use Only Applicable Spaces Above—Should Commence on Separate Sheet)

EXPEDITE

1. DESCRIPTION : Immediately after taking off on a practice mission, pilot called tower and reported run-away prop. He was given a clearance to land and as he came over the field it was seen that #2 prop was feathered. Aircraft crashed on base leg and because of extensive damage by fire, cause of engine malfunction could not be determined.

2. HISTORICAL DATA :

a. Position	: #2
b. Oil Consumption	: 5 qts per hour
c. Combat Time	: 210:00 hours
d. Cylinder Evidencing Failure	: Could not be determined
e. Cylinder Changed	: None
f. Ground Run-In Time	: 004:00 hours
g. Flying Slow-Time	: 04:00 hours

3. SHIPPED TO : Salvaged by 3rd SAD, Sta 505, APO 636

Francis A. Green
FRANCIS A. GREEN
Captain, Air Corps
Sqdn Eng O

Incl. #1 -

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ROUTING

SEND ORIGINAL AND TWO COPIES DIRECT TO COMMANDING GENERAL,
HQ. AIR SERVICE COMMAND, PATTERSON FIELD, FARMFIELD, CONN.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
APO 558

93836
E-T-135

768

360.33

9 March 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of AAF Form 54 to Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.

Transmitted herewith are three (3) copies of AAF Form 54 covering accident of Aircraft B-24J 44-40281 of 458th Bombardment Group which was forwarded to your Headquarters by 1st Indorsement, this Headquarters, 25 February 1945.

For the Commanding General:

RECEIVED
17 MAR 1945
Headquarters
Eighth Air Force
A.G. Section

1945 MAR 19
BYROND B. STRONG
Major AGD
Ass't Adj General

OFFICE SAFETY
2317

11:25
AF

1 Incl: As above.

360.33

1st Ind.

E-T-4

Hq, Eighth Air Force, APO 634, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

11 MAR 1945

TO: Chief, Flying Safety, AAF, Winston-Salem 1, N.C.

Forwarded herewith AAF Form 54 (Unsatisfactory Report) on aircraft accident of B-24J number 44-40281 for attachment to HAAF Form number 14 and allied papers which was forwarded your Headquarters on 5 March, 1945.

For the Commanding General:

Burnis Archer

BURNIS ARCHER,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

1 Incl: As above.

45-2-13-524
3-19

1 copy h.d.
Classified
Records

- 1 -

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40-6087

13th February 1945

0930 Weather - overcast. Slight Southerly Wind.

0935 (1) TO AREAS - P.O.D.T.C. R.O.C. NORWICH CITY
ASSISTANCE BOARD. NORWICH EL. ENG.
County Bulletin. No enemy action.

0947 (2) FROM NORWICH CITY. (0945). Situation report NIL.

....other entries....

1250 (5) FROM OLD CATTON POLICE. Aircraft has crashed near GEORGE
HILL on SPIXWORTH RD. Fire.

1254 (6) TO N.F.S. repeating (5) above.

1310 (7) FROM N.F.S. H.Q. Plane crashed SCHOOL LANE, SPIXWORTH ROAD,
OLD CATTON.

1330 (8) FROM EASTERN ref. (5),(6) and (7).

At 1249, Liberator crashed at junction of CHURCH ST. and
SPIXWORTH RD. OLD CATTON, G. 692302. 1 house on fire. 1 civilian
casualty removed by U.S.A.A.F. Ambulance. Telephone wires
damaged. SPIXWORTH RD. and CHURCH ST. blocked. POLICE. N.F.S.
U.S.A.A.F. and WARDENS on scene.
REPEATED TO NORWICH EL. ENG. 1350 hrs.
ASSISTANCE BOARD 1353 hrs. POLICE 1355 hrs.

1335 (9) TO REGION Special Report. Crashed aircraft at OLD CATTON.

....other entries....

1532 (13) FROM EASTERN (1528). Ref.our 1325 hrs. Aircraft burnt out
and crew killed. One house 'B' damage. SPIXWORTH RD. and
CHURCH ST. will remain closed to-night.

1535 (14) TO REGION (1545). Ref. our 1335 hrs. to-day. OLD CATTON
incident. 'B' damage to 1 house. Aircraft burnt out, all of
crew killed. SPIXWORTH RD. and CHURCH ST. will remain closed
to-night.

....other entires....

14th February 1945

0930 WEATHER - Fine. Fresh South Easterly Wind.

....other entries....

1714 (6) FROM EASTERN (1712). SPIXWORTH RD. at OLD CATTON now
open to traffic. (SCHOOL LANE stil closed owing to
possible danger from spilled petrol).

16th February 1945

....other entries....

1909 (24) FROM EASTERN (1905). CHURCH LANE, OLD CATTON, now reported
clear for traffic by U.S.A. police.



