

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place Castelluccio Army Airfield, Italy (2) Date 14 August 1944 (3) Time 0845
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24G 040 (5) A. E. No. 42-73102 (6) Station Castelluccio AAF, Italy
Organization: (7) 15th AF (8) 451st Bomb (9) 726th Bomb (Squadron)

PERSONNEL BH

DUTY (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL NO. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
P	Miller, Wilbur F.	P	0-821326	2nd Lt	1801	AC	15th	Major	No
CP	Hunter, William M.	P	0-322724	2nd Lt	1801	AC	15th	Minor	No
N	Witwicki, Alphonse E.	N	0-716565	2nd Lt	1801	AC	15th	None	No
B	Levenson, Sidney S.	B	0-561501	2nd Lt	1801	AC	15th	Fatal	No
R	Fagan, Francis J.	S	31139954	Sgt	1801	AAF	15th	Fatal	No
AG	House, Felix L.	AG	34329240	Cpl	1801	AAF	15th	Fatal	No
RO	Ehrlichmann, Donald L.	RO	17153713	S/Sgt	1801	AAF	15th	None	No
AG	Cwienska, Oscar E.	AG	36771177	Cpl	1801	AAF	15th	Fatal	No
AS	Clifton, Lloyd T.	AS	17040000	Sgt	1801	AC	15th	Minor	No
AG	Soukup, Frank E.	AG	17040000	Sgt	1801	AC	15th	Minor	No

(20) Miller, Wilbur F. (Last name) (21) 15th AF (22) 451st Bomb (23) 726th Bomb (24) AC
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Branch)

Assigned (25) 15th AF (26) 451st Bomb (27) 726th Bomb (28) Castelluccio AAF
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Attached for flying (29) 15th AF (30) 451st Bomb (31) 726th Bomb (32) Castelluccio AAF
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 1/7/44 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 1/7/44 (Date) Instrument rating (37) 3/5/44 (Date)

First PILOT HOURS:
(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	224	129:15	(42) Instrument time last 6 months
(39) This model	B-24	129:15	(43) Instrument time last 30 days
(40) Last 90 days		0:00	(44) Night time last 6 months
(41) Total		89:30	(45) Night time last 30 days
		501:45	

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE			(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	W		Complete demolition of aircraft by explosion and fire.
(47) Engine(s)	W		
(48) Propeller(s)	W		

(50) Weather at the time of accident CAVU

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
(52) Cleared from Castelluccio (53) To Combat (54) Kind of clearance Combat

(55) Pilot's mission Combat

(56) Nature of accident Normal take-off was effected and a climb was made to approximately 500 feet. It was stated by the pilot that number one engine failed to develop power, whereupon pilot feathered the engine and a crash landing was made straight ahead, wheels were up.

(57) Cause of accident Inexperience of combat loading of aircraft, poor judgement in the exercise of faulty technique resulting in crash landing and complete demolition of airplane.

(58) No

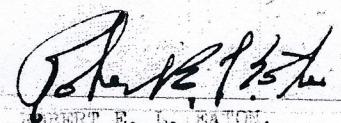
DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

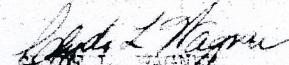
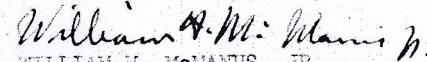
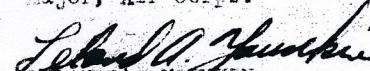
The pilot was new to combat, had flown only 2 missions as co-pilot with his own crew, with an experienced co-pilot superimposed on the crew. The ship was an old G. The pilot made a good take-off, attained approximately 1500 feet indicated, number one engine cut out, pilot salvoed bombs, (all bombs salvoed except 4 two hundred fifty pounders) pilot feathered #1 engine, could not hold altitude on 3 engines, made a reasonably good crash landing.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the opinion of the Aircraft Accident Committee that poor technique was exercised, in that some power might have been obtained from the faulty engine and that premature feathering the engine could have been poor judgement on the pilot's part.



ROBERT E. L. EATON,
Colonel, Air Corps.


ELLIS E. ENO,
Lt. Col., Air Corps.
GEORGE L. WAGNER,
Major, Medical Corps.
WILLIAM H. McMANUS, JR.,
Major, Air Corps.
LELAND L. YOSTKIN,
Major, Air Corps,
Aircraft Accident Officer.

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)