

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

(1) Place **Castelluccio Air Field, Italy** (2) Date **12 October 1944** (3) Time **1815**
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model **B-24 G C42** (5) A. F. No. **42-7844** (6) Station **Castelluccio Air Field**
Organization: (7) **15th** (8) **451st B. G.** (9) **724th Bomb Sq. (H)**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (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	BOOTS, LLOYD O.	P	0-696320	1st Lt.	160	AC	15th	None	No
CP	MAYBAY, DUANE C.	P	0-705035	2nd Lt.	260	AC	15th	None	No
E	ZERBE, RALPH W.	E	37520045	S/Sgt	384	AC	15th	None	No



(20) **Beets** **Llyed** (21) **0-696320** (22) **1st Lt.** (23) **18** (24) **AC**
(Last name) (First name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) **15th** (26) **724th** (27) **Castelluccio A. F.**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Attached for flying (28) **None** (29) **None** (30) **None** (31) **None** (32) **None**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Original rating (33) **Pilot** (34) **11-3-43** Present rating (35) **Pilot** (36) **11-3-43** Instrument rating (37) **None**
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

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

(38) This type **B-24** **241:15** (43) Instrument time last 6 months **None**
(39) This model **B-24** **204:05** (44) Instrument time last 30 days **None**
(40) Last 90 days **185:10** (45) Night time last 6 months **5:10**
(41) Total **241:15** (46) Night time last 30 days **5:10**
766:40

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE **NF**

DAMAGE					(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS				
(46) Aircraft M 1 - - -					Nose wheel door and Bulkhead damaged				
(47) Engine(s) - 1 - 1 -					None				
(48) Propeller(s) - 1 - 1 -					None				

(50) Weather at the time of accident **CAVII** **ET**

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

(55) Pilot's mission **Test-hop** **85**

(56) Nature of accident **Landed with nose wheel retracted** **16**

(57) Cause of accident **Nose wheel was not in the down and locked position when the ship landed**

(58) **Yea** **NO** **POOR** **GOOD** **EXCELLENT**

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

The hydraulic pressure release kicked out before the nose wheel had moved from the fully retracted position. The Engineer when he learned the wheels were lowered did not have time to check the landing gear. Ship landed with nose wheel retracted.

RESPONSIBILITY

100% Pilot Error in landing the aircraft before the Engineer had visually checked the entire landing gear.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent repetition - Lt Beets, the First Pilot, be made Co-Pilot on B-24 type aircraft. The responsibilities of an Aircraft Commander be again emphasized to all Pilots.

James B. Knapp

JAMES B. KNAPP,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps.

Robert E. Applegate

ROBERT E. APPLEGATE,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps.

Clarence L. Wagner

CLARENCE L. WAGNER,
Major, Medical Corps.

William H. McManus

WILLIAM H. McMANUS, JR.,
Major, Air Corps.

Edward L. Wilson Jr.

EDWARD L. WILSON, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Aircraft Accident Officer.

Signature _____

(Investigating Officer)

Date _____

724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUASRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #520 U. S. Army

15 October 1944

SUBJECT: Accident Report to B-24G, 42-78414, Airplane.

TO : Whom it May Concern.

1. I took off at about 1715 October 12, 1944, and ascended to 6000 ft. altitude and made several checks on the main gear which had been faulty, to see that it was working properly. After completing the check I made a slow decent to come into the field for a landing to pick up a navigator before starting on a night flight. When I reached traffic altitude I yelled gear down and co-pilot extended same, but the engineer was paralleling the generators and was unaware that we were landing until I switched on the landing lights.

Lloyd O. Boots
LLOYD O. BOOTS
1st Lt., Air Corps
pilot

724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #520 U. S. Army

15 October 1944

SUBJECT: Accident Report to B-24G, 42-78414, Airplane.

TO : Whom it May Concern.

1. I was co-pilot of plane 42-78414 on Thursday evening 12 October 1944. The plane was landed with the nosewheel retracted. The pilot gave the order "Gear Down" and I extended the landing gear and double checked the right wheel from my window

DUANE C. MAYBAY
DUANE C. MAYBAY
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Co-Pilot

784TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #520 U.S. Army

15 October 1944

SUBJECT: Accident Report to B-24G, 42-78414, Airplane.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. We were circling for a landing while I was checking the generator. I started to come up on the flight deck, when I saw the landing lights go on and hurried to the back of the ship to check the landing gears. After checking the gears I went up to the nose, by that time I heard the pilot cut the power so hurried out of the nose, and by that time we were on the runway.

Ralph W. Zerbe

RALPH W. ZERBE
S/Sgt, Air Corps
Engineer

784TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #520 U. S. Army

15 October 1944

SUBJPECT: Accident Report on B-54G, 42-78414, Airplane.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. I was driving down the taxi strip to the fast end of the runway, when Airplane 42-78414 was coming in for a landing. I stopped the weapons carrier and watched the plane come in. The plane was almost over the taxi strip that crosses the fast end of the runway, when I noticed that the nose wheel wasn't down.

QUERRINO BENDETO
M/Sgt, Air Corps
Flight Chief

M/Sgt. Quirino Bendedto

