

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

136 ACCIDENT No. \_\_\_\_\_  
45-7-24-56

(1) Place Army Air Field, Bari, Italy (2) Date 24 September 1944 (3) Time 1100  
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 D (5) A. F. No. 41-23733 (6) Station Castelluccio  
Organization: (7) 15th (8) 451st (9) 724th  
(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	RUTKOWSKI, WALTER (NMI)	P	0-1691628	1st Lt	18	AC	15th	None	Na
CP	MULDOON, RAYMOND A.	CP	0-811426	1st Lt	18	AC	15th	None	Na
N	HANNAH, MOSES (NMI)	N	0-805273	Capt	18	AC	15th	None	Na
E	Hoskins, Kenneth P.	E	38461780	T/Sgt	21	AC	15th	None	Na
R	Bloom, Lorenze D.	R	32836572	T/Sgt	21	AC	15th	None	Na
AE	Johnson, Robert B.	E	35365826	S/Sgt	21	AC	15th	None	Na
X	Denton, Royal S.	X	19170345	Cpl	21	AC	15th	None	Na

(20) Rutkowski Walter (NMI) (21) 0-1691628 (22) 1st Lt (23) 18 (24) AC  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personal class) (Branch)  
Assigned (25) 15th (26) 451st (27) 724th (28) Castelluccio  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Attached for flying (29) \_\_\_\_\_ (30) \_\_\_\_\_ (31) \_\_\_\_\_ (32) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 2-30-43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 1-20-44  
(Date) (Date) (Rank) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:  
(at the time of this accident)  
(38) This type 501:45 (42) Instrument time last 30 days \_\_\_\_\_  
(39) This model 5:30 (43) Instrument time last 30 days \_\_\_\_\_  
(40) Last 90 days 167:55 (44) Flight time last 90 days \_\_\_\_\_  
(41) Total 501:45 (45) Flight time last 30 days \_\_\_\_\_



AIRCRAFT DAMAGE  
(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS  
DAMAGE  
(46) Aircraft M 2  
(47) Engine(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(48) Propeller(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Wing tip

(50) Weather at the time of accident CAVU FH  
(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
(52) Cleared from Castelluccio (53) To Bari, Italy (54) Kind of clearance Ferrying  
(55) Pilot's mission Administration  
(56) Nature of accident Taried into another plane damaging the wing tip.  
(57) Cause of accident Pilot misjudging distance from another parked aircraft.  
(58) No

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Pilot made normal approach and landing. He turned off runway and started taxiing, when he approached a parking space he underestimated his distance from another parked aircraft and crashed wing tips.

RESPONSIBILITY

100% Pilot Error

*James B. Knapp*  
 JAMES B. KNAPP,  
 Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
 Commanding.  
*Edward L. Wilson, Jr.*  
 EDWARD L. WILSON, JR.,  
 Major, Air Corps,  
*William E. Momanus, Jr.*  
 WILLIAM E. MOMANUS, JR.,  
 Major, Air Corps,  
*Clyde L. Wagner*  
 CLYDE L. WAGNER,  
 Major, Medical Corps,  
*Leland A. Yunkin*  
 LELAND A. YUNKIN,  
 Major, Air Corps,  
 Aircraft Accident Officer.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Investigating Officer)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

784TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)  
Officer of the Operations Officer  
APO #580 U. S. Army

29 September 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident in B-24D No. 41-23783 on 28 Sept 1944.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. After taxiing down to the extreme end of runway to run up ramp, I was preparing to swing to a 45° angle to runway for purpose of warming and view of approach leg. This maneuver would put me alongside another B-24, about 100 feet in front of me, preparing for takeoff. As I began to turn, I edged to the left and my left wing tip struck a protruding branch of an olive tree, damaging the wing tip and leading edge of wing by wing tip.

*Walter Rutkowski*

WALTER RUTKOWSKI  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Pilot

*Raymond A. Muldoon*  
RAYMOND A. MULDOON  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Co-Pilot