

RESTRICTED

ACCIDENT No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

45-1-15-506

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

2-6-45

17-001... Y 169-0901

99 4

(1) Place Castelluccio A/F, Italy (2) Date January 15, 1945 (3) Time 1845
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 H DO (5) A. F. No. 41-28786 (6) Station Castelluccio A/F, Italy
Organisation: (7) 15th (8) 451st Bomb (9) 727th Bomb
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL B H

| DUTY | NAME (Last name first) | RATING | SERIAL NO. | RANK | PERSONNEL CLASS | BRANCH | AIR FORCE OR COMMAND | RESULTS TO PERSONNEL | USE OF PARACHUTE |
|------|---------------------------|--------|------------|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| (10) | (11) | (12) | (13) | (14) | (15) | (16) | (17) | (18) | (19) |
| P | MARABLE, BILLY D. | P | 0-825224 | 2nd Lt | 18 Y | AC | 15th | None | No |
| P | Smith, J. E. | P | 0-2059638 | 2nd Lt | 18 Y | AC | 15th | None | No |
| E | Ransdell, Clyde E. | E | 25706088 | Cpl | 38 | AAF | 15th | None | No |

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED
TO **RESTRICTED**
BY AUTHORITY OF CG AAF
BY FC A DATE 2-12-46

(20) Marable, Billy D. (21) 0-825224 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 18 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 15th AF (26) 451st Bomb (27) 727th Bomb (28) Castelluccio A/F, Italy
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 15th AF (30) 451st Bomb (31) 727th Bomb (32) Y 169
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 3/12/44 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 3/12/44 Instrument rating (37) _____
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:
(at the time of this accident) OR T.O-1 2
(38) This type B-24 225.30 (43) Instrument time last 6 months _____
(39) This model B-24H 10.5t (44) Instrument time last 30 days _____
(40) Last 90 days 98.30 (45) Night time last 6 months _____
(41) Total 222.65 (46) Night time last 30 days _____

props — AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NF

| DAMAGE | | (49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| (46) Aircraft | M 3 | #1 Engine, #1 Prop, Left Landing Gear | | | |
| (47) Engine(s) | M 3 | | | | |
| (48) Propeller(s) | M 3 | | | | |

(50) Weather at the time of accident 2,000 ft 3/10 to 10/10 coverage - light stratus
(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
(52) Cleared from Gioia de Colle (53) To Castelluccio (54) Kind of clearance Contact
(55) Pilot's mission Ferry 3
(56) Nature of accident Left gear collapsed on landing

IV G

(57) Cause of accident Side brace strut on left gear was broken on lower half. (complete break)
(58) Yes 60

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Sister

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

When the landing gear was lowered for landing the pilot and co-pilot noticed that the plane did not fly as smoothly as usual. The engineer then called the pilot and told him that the left landing gear was not locked down and after closer examination reported that the side brace strut was broken completely off just below the knuckle joint. The pilot immediately notified the tower that it was impossible to lock left landing gear down. After receiving permission from the tower to make a crash landing the pilot started a normal approach to the runway and made a very smooth landing. Immediately after touching the ground the left landing gear started to collapse and the plane swerved to the left, the pilot quickly regained control by using the #1 and #2 engines, full right rudder, and right brake, and brought the plane to a stop just off the edge of the runway.

RESPONSIBILITY

100% Material Failure

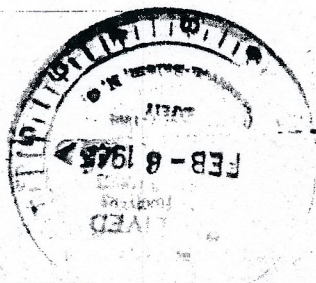
L. Roy Stefanowicz
LEROY L. STEFANOWICZ
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Commanding.

John S. Hoefock
JOHN S. HOEFOCK,
Lt. Col., Air Corps

Charles B. Hodges
CHARLES B. HODGES,
Major, Air Corps.

Glyde L. Wagner
GLYDE L. WAGNER,
Major, Medical Corps.

Francis J. Hoermann
FRANCIS J. HOERMANN,
Major, Air Corps,
Aircraft Accident Officer.



Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

Date _____

727TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U S Army

16 January 1945

S T A T E M E N T

On January 15, 1945, I was piloting a B-24 H type aircraft, Air Force Serial Number 41-28786, from Gioia to my home base on a ferrying trip. When gear was put down for landing, I noticed unusual roughness in the way the ship was flying. Investigation by the Engineer revealed that the lower half of the jackknife strut was completely broken. When cleared by tower for landing, we came in for normal landing. After ground contact, the left gear began to fold up. Plane was held straight on runway by throttles, rudder and last, by right brake. When the plane came to a full stop, the switches were cut and the gas cut off, and the pilot, co-pilot and engineer immediately evacuated the strip. The undersigned has no solution as to how the strut was broken.

Billy D. Marable
BILLY D. MARABLE,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

WAR DEPARTMENT

ARMY AIR FORCES
RESTRICTED
UNSATISFACTORY REPORT

| LEAVE BLANK | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------|
| A.S.C. Serial No. | Refer to | Class |
| | | |

| TO BE FILLED IN BY STATION | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Station Serial No. <i>4524</i> | Date Submitted <i>1-18-45</i> |

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

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| STATION APO 520, USAAF | | ORGANIZATION 727th Bomb Sq (H), 451st Bomb Gp (H) | |
| SUBJECT OF REPORT | Property Class-Name 01-B Strut - Side Brace Lower | Manufacturer Consolidated | AAF Order or Shipping No. |
| AIRCRAFT - Model & AAF Serial No. B-24H 41-25786 | | ENGINE - Model & AAF Serial No. | UNIT OR ACCESSORY - Type, Model and Serial No. |
| AIRCRAFT REPORTS ONLY | LAST D.L.R. - Depot | Date | Flying Time Since - Total Flying Time |
| ENGINE REPORTS ONLY | LAST OVERHAUL - Depot | Hours Since | Depots and Hours At Each Previous Overhaul |
| PART. | Name Strut - Side Brace Lower | | Part Drawing, Serial and Specification No. G321090 |
| | Time in Use 537:40 | Quantity on Hand 12 | Quantity Known Defective 1 |
| Indicate by 'x' Disposition of Exhibit | | Photographed and Prints Enclosed | Held for Instructions |
| | | Sent Under Separate Cover | Sent in Attached Package |
| | | Repaired and Returned to Service | Disposed of (Explain Below.) |
| | | | To Overhaul Facility (INITIALS.) |

GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS, PROBABLE CAUSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS BELOW:
(Use Only Applicable Spaces Above - Avoid Unnecessary Repetition)

EXPEDITE

- DESCRIPTION OF TROUBLE:** As landing gear was lowered, Strut - Side Brace Lower, part # G321090 on left landing gear broke. Ship made a one wheel landing as left gear collapsed. Inspection revealed that strut had broken off on upper end just below the weld.
- SERVICE AND HISTORY:** Strut was installed at the factory. Time in use was 537:40 hours.
- DISPOSITION:** Properly tagged and shipped to 60th Service Squadron.
- PREVIOUS REPORTS:** None.
- GENERAL REMARKS:** Break was believed due to material failure.
- PHOTOGRAPHS:** Submitted.

E. L. Hinn
ELI HINN,
Capt, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer

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ROUTING

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