

**RESTRICTED**

ACCIDENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES •

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT **45-10-27-513**

11-17-44 79-001

093 4

(1) Place Castelluccio Air Field, Italy (2) Date 24 October 1944 (3) Time 1130  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 J-40 (5) A. F. No. 42-51314 (6) Station Castelluccio Air Field  
 Organization: (7) 15th (8) 451st BG (9) 724th Bomb Sq  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

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	SIEBER, WERNER F.	P	0-674643	2nd Lt	01	AC	15th	None	No
CP	THOMAS, WALTER L. Jr	CP	0-930580	2nd Lt	1801	AC	15th	None	No
N	EVANS, L. F.	N	0-2060962	2nd Lt	18	AC	15th	None	No
B	MCCOLLUM, W. M.	B	0-723992	2nd Lt	18	AC	15th	None	No
E	Piotrowski, R. F.	E	35957180	Sgt	38	AC	15th	None	No
R	Render, W.C.	R	38530958	Cpl	38	AC	15th	None	No
AE	Blackburn, F. D.	AE	34761681	Sgt	38	AC	15th	None	No
G	Crasham, C. (NMT)	G	33801410	Sgt	38	AC	15th	None	No
G	Clairborne, H. G.	G	14166274	Sgt	20	AC	15th	None	No
G	Day, C. P.	G	34854510	Sgt	38	AC	15th	None	No

PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(30) Sieber Werner F. (31) 0-674643 (32) 2nd Lt (33) 01 (34) Air Corps  
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)  
 Assigned (35) 15th (36) 451st BG (37) 724th (38) Castelluccio A. F.  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Attached for flying (39) \_\_\_\_\_ (40) \_\_\_\_\_ (41) \_\_\_\_\_ (42) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Original rating (43) Pilot (44) 5-20-45 Present rating (45) Pilot (46) 5-20-45 Instrument rating (47) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

First Pilot Hours:

(at the time of this accident)

(48) This type	<u>B-24</u>	<u>99:20</u>	(49) Instrument time last 6 months	_____
(50) This model	<u>B-24 J</u>	<u>62:25</u>	(51) Instrument time last 30 days	_____
(52) Last 90 days		<u>1456:00</u>	(52) Night time last 6 months	_____
(53) Total			(53) Night time last 30 days	_____

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE					(54) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(54) Aircraft	<u>M</u>	<u>3</u>			<u>Several small holes in wing</u>
(55) Engine(s)	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>W4</u>	<u>#1 Engine change</u>
(56) Propeller(s)	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>W4</u>	<u>#1 propeller</u>

(57) Weather at the time of accident CAVU  
 BY AUTHORITY OF CG AAF  
 BY FCA DATE 2-20-46

(58) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No  
 (59) Cleared from Castelluccio AF (60) To Castelluccio AF (61) Kind of clearance Training  
 (62) Pilot's mission Training

(63) Nature of accident #1 Prop hit wing and aileron of lead ship during formation flying

(64) Cause of accident Flying formation to close

(65) No \_\_\_\_\_

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF ACCIDENT  
INVESTIGATION  
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

(Brief narrative of accident. **REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT** and **RECOMMENDATIONS** for action to prevent repetition)

Time (2)

Date (3)

Place (1)

Aircraft was flying on a practice formation flight as left wingman. Pilot misjudged his distance from the lead ship while in a turn and his right wing overlapped the left wing of the lead ship and #4 prop chewed into the wing.

RESPONSIBILITY  
100% Pilot Error

*James B. Knapp*  
 JAMES B. KNAPP  
 Lt. Col., Air Corps  
 Commanding

*Robert E. Applegate*  
 ROBERT E. APPLEGATE,  
 Lt. Col., Air Corps,

*Carl L. Wagner*  
 CARL L. WAGNER,  
 Major, Medical Corps,

*William H. McManus, Jr.*  
 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 SQUADRON (H)  
Office of the Operations Officer  
APO #520 U. S. Army

29 October 1944

SUBJECT: accident statement for Airplane, B-24J, No. 42-51314,  
on 24 October 1944.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. We were flying to close a formation to begin with. As I remember we were in a turn to the left, when I noticed the lead ship seemed to be coming up and out faster than I had at first judged it to be. I began to try and slide out when I happened to glance up and saw another ship directly overhead. My right wing was coming up fast and I nearly saw the ship above to late. There was only one thing to do and that was try to slide out flat, which the co-pilot and I tried to do by applying full left rudder. We were not quick enough which resulted in the mid air accident.

2. Our position from above would look like this.

My ship            Lead ship  
Top ship

*Werner F. Sieber*

WERNER F. SIEBER  
2nd Lt., Air Corps  
Pilot



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29 October 1944

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on 24 October 1944..

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. I was at the moment taking my oxygen mask off when I glanced out and noticed that our wing tip seemed to overlap the lead ship's wing tip. I motioned to the pilot to pull away, but at the same time the two ships seemed to slide towards each other, I think at the time that the lead ship was in a bank to the right. Above us was a ship from the high element, so that the only way the pilot could get out from the lead was to the left. Our propeller struck the surface of the lead ship resulting in intense vibration of our number four engine, which I proceeded to feather, while we aborted from the formation and returned to the home field.

*Walter L. Thomas, Jr.*  
WALTER L. THOMAS, JR.  
2nd Lt., Air Corps  
Co-pilot

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Station Investigating Accident - 451st Bombardment Group (H)

Place of Accident - Castelluccio Air Field, Italy - Plane Type - B-24J.

Mission - Training - Date Accident - 24/Oct/44 - Time Accident - 1130

Manner of Occurrence and Probable Cause of Accident - Aircraft was flying on a practice formation flight as left wingman. Pilot misjudged his distance from the lead ship while in a turn and his right wing overlapped the left wing of the lead ship and #4 prop chewed into the wing.

Pilot Name - Sieber, Werner F. - ASN - 0-674643 - Age - 24 - Rating - Pilot

Total Pilot Hours - 1493:35 - No. Previous Accidents - None - Date Last Physical Exam. - 6/Sept/44 - History of Physical or Neuropsychic Defects - None

Copilot Name - Thomas, Walter L. - ASN - 0-890580 - Age - 23 - Rating - Copilot - Totap Pilot Hours - 411:10 - No. Previous Accidents - None - None -

Date Last Physical Exam. - 14/Aug/44 - History of Physical or Neuropsychic Defects - None - No. Persons in Plane - 10 - No. Persons Killed - 0 - No.

Persons Injured - 0 - No. Persons Not Injured - 10

Equipment Check: - Seats in Good Order? - Yes - Seat Belts Provided? - Yes - How Many? - 2 - In Good Order? - Yes - Shoulder Harness Provided? - Yes - How Many? - 2 - In Good Order? - Yes - Parachutes Provided? - Yes - How Many? -


10 - Oxygen Equipment Provided? - Yes - Type - Demand - In Good Order? - Yes -

Special Safety Devices? - None - Material Factors Which Contributed to or

Prevented Injury? - #4 prop hit wing and aileron of lead ship during formation

flying. - General Statement Regarding Accident with Recommendations - None

Date - 1 November 1944

  
CLYDE L. WAGNER  
Major, Medical Corps  
Group Flight Surgeon