

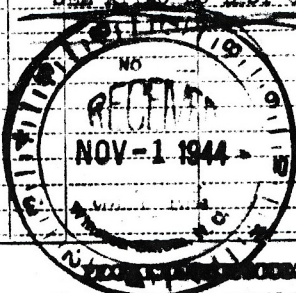
WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

058

(1) Place Rechetta, Italy (4105N 1530E) (2) Date 14 October 1944 (3) Time 1830
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 440 (5) A. F. No. 42-51661 (6) Station Castelluccio Air Base
 Organization: (7) Fifteenth (8) 451st Bomb (9) 724th Bomb
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL BH 7169

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)
01	<u>Readshaw, Richard F.</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>0-708919</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>K11</u>	<u>AC</u>	<u>15th</u>	<u>Killed</u>	
SEE ATTACHED LIST OF PERSONNEL									



(20) Readshaw Richard F. (21) 0-708919 (22) 2nd Lt (23) 18 (24) AC
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) Fifteenth (26) 451st Bomb (27) 724th Bomb (28) Castelluccio AF
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) Fifteenth (30) 451st Bomb (31) 724th Bomb (32) Castelluccio AF
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 2-8-44 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 2-8-44 Instrument rating (37) 6-25-44
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

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

(38) This type <u>B-24</u>	<u>182:55</u>	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	<u>30:35</u>
(39) This model <u>B-24</u>	<u>182:55</u>	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	<u>1:15</u>
(40) Last 90 days	<u>36:30</u>	(44) Night time last 6 months	<u>44:45</u>
(41) Total	<u>839:35</u>	(45) Night time last 30 days	<u>0:00</u>

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NF

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>W S</u>	<u>Complete destruction of aircraft.</u>
(47) Engine(s) <u>W W W W</u>	
(48) Propeller(s) <u>W W W W</u>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident Scattered clouds at 3,000 ft. visibility 6-8 miles.
immediately following rain showers in vicinity of accident. EK

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident Unknown

(52) Cleared from Mercanise (53) To Castelluccio (54) Kind of clearance Cross-country

(55) Pilot's mission Non-operational flight from Mercanise to Castelluccio.

(56) Nature of accident Aircraft crashed into a hill. The ship was completely destroyed but did not burn.

(57) Cause of accident Unknown.

(58) No

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Aircraft landed at Marcanise Airfield, Italy after becoming lost on return from a combat mission. The plane was serviced with fuel and the Pilot filed a clearance at Marcanise Base Operations. The weather was unfavorable on route and at the home base, and the landing at Castelluccia would have to be made after dark. In spite of these conditions the aircraft was cleared.

The crash occurred at Rochetta, Italy (4105N 1530E). Apparently the Pilot was trying to let-down below the weather too soon and ran into a hill.

RESPONSIBILITY: 100% Pilot Error.

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

Robert E. Applegate
ROBERT E. APPLGATE,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,

Clyde L. Wagner
CLYDE 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 _____

act# 1

Duty (10)	Name (11)	Rating (12)	Serial No. (13)	Rank (14)	Personnel class		AF or Command (17)	Result to Per- sonnel (18)	Use of Parachute (19)
					(15)	Branch (16)			
01 P	Readshaw, Richard F.	P	O-708919	2nd Lt	180	AC	15th	Killed	✓ No
64 CP	Walsh, Thomas	P	O-770860	2nd Lt	180	AC	15th	Killed	✓ No
65 N	Fetch, Joseph K.	N	O-2058443	2nd Lt	180	AC	15th	Killed	✓ No
61 B	Ackerman, Marvin S.	B	O-773273	2nd Lt	180	AC	15th	Killed	✓ No
77 RO	Feglosong, Don W.	RO	18017019	S/Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
62 E	Jones, Donald D.	E	32744772	S/Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
64 AG	Nelson, Henry R.	G	17088311	Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
64 AG	Carlen, Phillip M.	G	32167208	Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
64 AG	Fleury, Herman R.	G	11098857	Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
64 AG	Dappalene, Nickelas J.	G	33785683	Sgt	380	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No
65 X	Crouch, Geraldine	X	N-734677	2nd Lt	* 96	ANG T	15th	Killed	✓ No
68 X	Renan, Edward A.	X	39172323	S/Sgt	* 20	AAAF A MTO		Killed	✓ No
68 X	Chesher, Cyril George	X	701547	Sgt I	* 26	RAF W		Killed	✓ No
68 X	Chidgey, Maurice Ivan	X	750058	Sgt I	* 26	RAF W		Killed	✓ No
68 X	Montgomery, Joseph Arthur	X	20778	AMO	* 99	SAAFU		Killed	✓ No
68 X	Holdash, George G.	X	33458664	T/5	* 20	AAAF	15th	Killed	✓ No

* Indicates answer is unknown.

ATTACHED SHEET:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Geraldine Grouch	1st Lt.		Nurse	61st Sta. Hosp.
Heldash, George	T/5	33458664		2671 Spec. Recon, Bn (British)
Montgomery, Joseph H.	T/O			(British)
Chester, Cyril G.	Sgt.			(British)
Chidgey, M. I.	S/Sgt.			89th ADG
Roman, Edward	2nd Lt.	0-709819	P	451st BG
Readshaw, Richard F.	2nd Lt.	0-770860	GP	451st BG
Walsh, Thomas	2nd Lt.	0-2058443		451st BG
Fatch, Joseph K.	2nd Lt.	0-773253		451st BG
Askerman, Marvin S.	S/Sgt.	32744772		451st BG
Jones, Donald D.	Sgt.	32167208		451st BG
Carlon, Phillip M.	S/Sgt.	18017019		451st BG
Foglesong, Don W.	Sgt.	11096657		451st BG
Fleury, Norman R.	Sgt.	33785683		451st BG
Dappalona, Nicholas J.	Sgt.	17088911		451st BG
Nelsen, Henry F.				

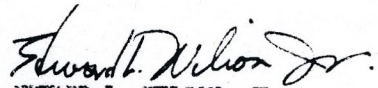
All individuals were dead when found and all had multiple compound and comminuted fractures of the head, chest and extremities.

Autopsies were not done.

S T A T E M E N T

It is the belief of the Aircraft Accident Officer that Aircraft 42-51661 should not have been cleared to take-off from Marcanise Air Field so late in the afternoon for a flight over mountains where some peaks were cloud covered and rain was a hazard to flying safety. The Pilot was in error when he requested a clearance and took-off after studying weather conditions and route forecast but it is believed that faulty technique was used in clearing an operational aircraft, that had just returned from a combat mission, when weather conditions had grounded aircraft of the Air Transport Command.

It is understood that the six passengers requested permission to fly in this aircraft after learning that ATC was grounded. Peer judgement was exercised in clearing these personnel for a flight in an operational aircraft.


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