

2-15-45
4672
H-001

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

91 8

(1) Place 2 mile South of Minervino Italy (2) Date 15 January 1945 (3) Time APPROX 1000
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 DO (5) A. F. No. 44-49055 (6) Station AAF, Castelluccio
 Organization: (7) 15th (8) 451st Bomb (9) 726 Bomb Sq (H)
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL B14

7169

DDTY (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	KATHMAN, HOWARD L.	P	0-730167	1st Lt	01 ✓	AC	15th	Fatal	---
CP	KAST, John M.	P	T-62927	F/S	17 ✓	AC	15th	Fatal	---
AN	BUCKLEY, Richard M.	N	01998985	2nd Lt	18 ✓	AUS	15th	Fatal	---
ANV	INGRAM, Elvin C. Jr	NV	0-706876	1st Lt	18 ✓	AUS	15th	Fatal	---
ANV	BRODERSON, Walter H.	NV	02061104	2nd Lt	18 ✓	AUS	15th	Fatal	---
SB	CURTIS, Richard C.	B	0-717757	1st Lt	18 ✓	AUS	15th	Fatal	---
SA	RIDDLE, Otto A.	A	34607199	S. Sgt	38 ✓	AUS	15th	Fatal	---

(20) Kathman Howard L. (21) 0-730167 (22) 1st Lt (23) 01 (24) AC
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) 15th AF 15 (26) 451st Bomb (27) 726th Bomb (28) AAF Castelluccio
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) 15th AF 15 (30) 451st Bomb (31) 726th Bomb (32) AAF Castelluccio
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 9-20-42 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 9-20-42 Instrument rating (37) 4-21-44
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

First Pilot Hours:
 (at the time of this accident) 01R 5 T.O. - 1
 (38) This type B-24 222:45 (39) Instrument time last 6 months 2:50
 (39) This model B-24 31:55 (40) Instrument time last 30 days 2:00
 (40) Last 90 days 134:25 (41) Night time last 6 months 5:25
 (41) Total 1799:55 (42) Night time last 30 days 1:15

Props AIRCRAFT DAMAGE Fuse

DAMAGE	(43) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(44) Aircraft <u>W 4</u>	<u>Complete wreck</u>
(45) Engine(s) <u>W 4</u>	
(46) Propeller(s) <u>W 4</u>	

(47) Weather at the time of accident Ceilings were variable from 500 to 3000 ft. Visibility 2 to 3 miles in rain showers. Visibility 8 to 10 miles otherwise. Low clouds broken to 10/10ths.
 (48) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident Unknown
 (49) Cleared from Castelluccio (50) To Castelluccio (51) Kind of clearance Local 2

(52) Pilot's mission Training
 CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED TO **RESTRICTED**

(53) Nature of accident Aircraft hit ground and burned
 BY AUTHORITY OF CG AAF
 BY F. C. A. DATE 2-12-45

(54) Cause of accident Unknown
 (55) Has Form 54 been submitted? No 80-85

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

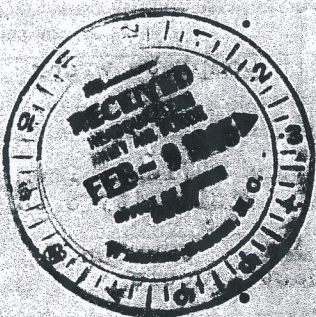
(Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition)

At approximately 1000 on the 15th of January 1945, airplane #44-49055 crashed into the side of a hill at Minervino, apparently due to the Pilot being unable to see the ground and not having sufficient altitude to clear the terrain. The weather at the time of the accident was visibility 2 to 3 miles in rain and ceiling broken, clouds at 500 feet.

The terrain elevation in the immediate area of the accident is 1200 feet.

It is the opinion of this board that the pilot was attempting to fly under the clouds; not realizing the ceiling was lower than the highest terrain elevation.

It is recommended that all pilots be thoroughly briefed on the importance of not attempting to fly contact when obvious instrument conditions exist.



Darby Lark Moon

MAJOR DABNEY VA MOON

Darryl S. Wilcox

CAPT HARRY S. WILCOX

Howard H. Stark

CAPT HOWARD H. STARK

Charles C. Cook

Signature

LT COL ELVEN E. COOK

LT COL HAROLD A. SULLOCK

Frank L. Smith Jr.

LT COL FRANK L. SMITH JR.

Oren C. Cook

LT COL OREN C. COOK

Date 24 January 1945

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S. Army

DDJ/gww
A.S.V.
my
(6)

360.33

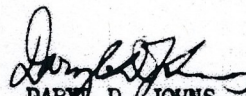
26 January 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report of Aircraft Accident

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Winston Salem, N. C.
ATTENTION: Chief of Flying Safety

In compliance with AAF Regulation 62-14a, 28 January 1944, attached is original copy of AAF Form 14, Report of Aircraft Accident, with pictures, on aircraft B-24L, A.F. No. 44-49055, assigned to the 451st Bombardment Group (H), APO 520, U. S. Army, which occurred in the vicinity of this Group's station on 15 January 1945. Report of accident was conducted by the Aircraft Accident Committee of this organization.

For the Commanding Officer:


DARYL D. JOHNS
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - AAF Form 14 (a/c 44-49055),
451st Bomb Gp (H), w/4
pictures
(1st Lt Rathman, Howard L., Pilot)

-1-

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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NP 7717 AC