

WAR DEPARTMENT
A. A. F. FORM NO. 14
(Revised May 15, 1942)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

ACCIDENT No. **098**

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place: **AAF STATION 140** (2) Date: **8 JUNE 1944** (3) Time: **0707**
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model: **B-24 H** (5) A. F. No.: **42-3445** (6) Station: **AAF STATION 140**
Organization: (7) **8th AF** (8) **407th Bomb Gp** (9) **791st Bombardment Squadron** (10)
(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	Willard H. Sell	P	0743288	1st. Lt.	01	AC	8th	None	None
CP	Harvey P. Pettit	CP	0818221	2nd. Lt.	01	AC	8th	"	"
B	John G. Simonwith	B	0858857	2nd. Lt.	01	AC	8th	"	"
AE	Charles (Wm.) Schmitz	AE	3227848	S/Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
RO	Fred J. Enck	RO	3881888	1/Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
G	Charles G.weeney	G	38326739	S/Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
E	Francis W. Lavery	G	31183351	Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
PIG	Robert W. Farnsworth	PIG	38838287	S/Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
IG	Morton A. Schecter	IG	40174329	Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
PIA	Francis A. Leusser	PIA	32801784	S/Sgt.	38	AAF	8th	"	"
A	Arthur H. Ireland	A	0810152	2nd. Lt.	01	AC	8th	"	"

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) **Sell** (First name) **Willard** (First name) **H.** (Middle initial) (21) **0743288** (Serial number) (22) **1st. Lt.** (Rank) (23) **01** (Personnel class) (24) **AC** (Branch)
Assigned (25) **8th AF** (Command and Air Force) (26) **407th** (Group) (27) **791st** (Squadron) (28) **AAF Station 140** (Station)
Attached for flying (29) (Command and Air Force) (30) (Group) (31) (Squadron) (32) (Station)
Original rating (33) **Pilot** (Rating) (34) **4/12/43** (Date) Present rating (35) **Pilot** (Rating) (36) **4/12/43** (Date) Instrument rating (37) **A JUN 1944** (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	428.45	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	14:30
(39) This model	239.45	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	3:00
(40) Last 90 days	183.45	(44) Night time last 6 months	8:10
(41) Total	541.30	(45) Night time last 30 days	0:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	
(47) Engine(s)	See Attached Engineering Report
(48) Propeller(s)	

Weather at the time of accident: Visibility 2600 yds, ceiling 4000 ft, 10/10 coverage, rain, wind from west 30K, Fitness figure of field 4.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident: **NO**
(52) Cleared from: **AAF 140** (53) To: **AAF 140** (54) Kind of clearance: **Operational**
(55) Pilot's mission: **Operational**
(56) Nature of accident: **landing with poor visibility, left landing gear sheared off, belly-landing was made.**
(57) Cause of accident: **pilot error.**
(58) No AAF Form 54 Submitted.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

The pilot made a short approach and in lining up with runway 030° allowed airspeed to become dangerously low. This caused the wing to stall out and with a load of bombs aboard the weight on the left landing gear was too great and the landing gear sheered. The weather conditions at this time were adverse and made a close pattern necessary. The Group has instigated an extensive program to train all pilots of this command to make better and safer landings under all conditions including poor visibility. This program is now in effect.

Signature

Albert L. Wallace, Jr.

Investigating Officer

President MAJOR AC
ALBERT L. WALLACE, JR.

Member MAJOR AC
FRANK E. [unclear]

Member Capt. AC
ROBERT W. DOERGES

Robert W. Doenges

Date: JUN 1966

Hq USAF/AFSA-11100/1330

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HEADQUARTERS
FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Commanding Officer
AAF Station 143

F-D-3

AFO 558

399.00

8 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

TO : Aircraft Accident Board, 407th Bombardment Group (M).

S I M P L E M E N T

1. At approximately 0701 I saw an airplane approach the field from the north. It was at an altitude of 400 feet. It circled the field and made a normal approach on runway 03. However the pilot did not complete his turn in sufficient time, and had to make a left turn so as to line up with the runway. After lining up, the aircraft leveled off about fifteen feet in the air, and stalled, dropping on the left wheel.

Walter Shover
ALBERT G. SHOVER,
Colonel Air Corps,
Commanding

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OFFICE OF THE FLYING CONTROLLER
STATION 145 APO 538

8 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: CRASHED AIRCRAFT.

TO: GROUP OPERATIONS, AAF STATION 145, APO 538, U. S. ARMY.

1. AT 0707 AM, 8 JUNE 1944, AIRCRAFT 445, OF 701ST
SQUADRON, LT. COL. PILOT, CRASHED IN LANDING. VISIBILITY WAS VERY
LOW, IT WAS FOGGY AND RAINY. THE DAY OR NIGHT IN USE, THERE WAS A
90 DEGREE CROSS WIND AT ABOUT 5 MPH.

2. A NORMAL APPROACH WAS MADE WITH THE AIL OF YELLOW-
YELLOW FLAMES. AT THE LAST MINUTE HE DROPPED HIS LEFT WING
AND HIT THE AIRFIELD HARD WITH THE LEFT WHEEL. THE WHEEL IMMEDI-
ATELY SICKLED, MAKING OFF.

3. CRASH CREW AND ASSISTANCE WERE DISPATCHED IMMEDIATELY.
CREW APPARENTLY UNHURT.

49
9 JUN 1944

Jesse M. Atkinson
JESSE M. ATKINSON
2ND LT. AC
FLYING CONTROL OFF.

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Walter P. ...

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