

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

HOOKER COW.

3 12-4521K

5-4-14-11

(1) Place AAF Station 123, APO 558 (2) Date 14 April 1945 (3) Time 0512
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24 H J (5) A. F. No. 42-94120 (6) Station AAF 123
 Organisation: (7) 2AD VIII (8) 458th Bomb Gp (9) 754th Bombardment Squadron (10) VIII
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL BH

2190

DUTY	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
1. P	TOTTEN, DAVID R.	P	0-2259134	2d Lt.	1C	AC	VIII	Killed	No.
2. SE	STONE, JACOB J.	CE	0-1049366	1st Lt.	1B	"	"	"	"
3. S	ANDERSON, LEWIS L.	N	0-2072401	2d Lt.	1B	"	"	"	"
4. S	LAWSON, MICHAEL C. JR.	B	T-134426	P/O	17	"	"	Injured	"
5. S	SCALE, THOMAS F.	X	34810167	Sgt.	3C	AAF	"	Killed	"
6. RO	Key, Charles E. III	RO	12226449	Sgt.	3B	"	"	"	"
7. S	Reville, DON C.	C	34924123	Sgt.	3B	"	"	Injured	"

(20) TOTTEN DAVID R. (21) 0-2059134 (22) 2d Lt. (23) 1B (24) AC
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) 2 AD VIII (26) 458th Bomb Gp (27) 754th Bomb Sq. (H) (28) AAF 123
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) 2 AD VIII (30) 458th Bomb Gp (31) 754th Bomb Sq. (H) (32) AAF 123
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 23 May 44 (35) Present rating (36) Pilot (37) 23 May 44 (38) Instrument rating (39) 22 Jan 1945
 (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:
 (at the time of this accident) 0F - TO - 1
 (40) This type 172:55 (41) Instrument time last 6 months 4:00
 (42) This model 2:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 3:30
 (44) Last 90 days 62:50 (44) Night time last 6 months 43:40
 (45) Total 532:20 (45) Night time last 30 days 00:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

FN2

DAMAGE	(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>Y</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	Aircraft completely destroyed.
(47) Engine(s) <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	
(48) Propeller(s) <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	

(60) Weather at the time of accident Wind SE 3 M.P.H. Visibility was somewhere between 1000 and 300 yards. Fog was increasing. Accident occurred at 0512. Visibility at 0600 was 1000 yards at 0600 was 200 yards.

(61) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident Yes.
 (62) Cleared from AAF 123 (63) To AAF 123 (64) Kind of clearance Instrument.

(65) Pilot's mission Combat

(66) Nature of accident Plane crashed a few seconds after take-off by authority of CG. AAF

(67) Cause of accident Unknown but reduced visibility believed a major cause, and possibly the No. 2 engine was on fire.

(68) Has Form 54 been submitted No.

(69) RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

The plane was taking off on a combat mission at night and under poor visibility conditions. Actual visibility at take-off time was unknown, probably somewhere between 1800 yards and 200 yards the observations at 0500 and 0600. One of the survivors seems to think the number two engine was on fire soon after take-off. As plane hit the ground in a flying attitude, the wing section and engines caught fire completely destroying the aircraft. If the engine was on fire this may have distracted the pilot enough that he crashed. He was on instruments at the time of the crash.

Immediate Cause: Plane crashed under poor visibility conditions soon after take-off.

Underlying Cause: Possibly No. 2 engine on fire distracted pilot enough that he crashed.

Responsibility: 100% Unknown.

Recommendation: None.

James A. Hogg
 JAMES A. HOGG, O-388596
 Lt Col, Air Corps
 President.

Walter E. Lavell
 WALTER E. LAVELL, O-23032
 Lt Jcr, Air Corps,
 Pilot.

Walter H. Williamson
 WALTER H. WILLIAMSON, O-385445
 Lt Col, Air Corps,
 Pilot.

Signature _____
 (Investigating Officer)

Date 21 April 1945

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STATION WEATHER OFFICE
AAF STATION 123
APO 558

26 APRIL 1945

STATEMENT OF WEATHER FOR 0500-0600 HRS. 14 APRIL 1945.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT OF THE WEATHER EXISTING AT AAF STATION 123 FOR 0500-0600 HOURS, 14 APRIL 1945, IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2 AD INSTRUCTIONS 58-9A, DATED 16 JANUARY 1945.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>SKY COVERAGE</u>	<u>WEATHER</u>	<u>VISIBILITY</u>	<u>TEMP-D.P.</u>	<u>WIND</u>
0500	UNLIMITED	0/10	MIST	1800 YD	45 43	SE-3M
0600	UNLIMITED	0/10	FOG	300 YD	43 42	SSE-4M

2. THE VISIBILITY DETERIORATED RAPIDLY FROM 0500-0600 HOURS AT THIS STATION. AT AAF STATION 145, THE VISIBILITY DECREASED FROM 800 YARDS TO 300 YARDS, DURING THE SAME TIME. THIS WAS A LOCAL FOG CONDITION AT THESE TWO BASES. NO OTHER STATION IN THIS DIVISION REPORTED LESS THAN 1800 YARDS, DURING THE PERIOD OF THE ACCIDENT.

3. AAF STATION 145 LIES APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES ENE OF AAF STATION 123. SINCE THE WIND WAS SE-SSE AT 3-4 MPH, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LOCAL FOG MAY HAVE MOVED FROM THAT DIRECTION TO OBSCURE THE FAR END OF THE TAKE OFF RUNWAY, AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THE TAKE OFF WAS ON RUNWAY 05.

George J. Hebel
GEORGE J. HEBEL,
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS,
STATION WEATHER OFFICER.

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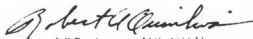
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FLYING CONTROL
AAF 123 APO 558

11 APRIL 1945

ACCIDENT STATEMENT

AT APPROXIMATELY 0512 HOURS THIS DATE, B-24
AIRCRAFT 120 "L", PILOTTED BY LT. TOTTEN OF THE 75TH
SQUADRON, CRASHED AND BURNED. AIRCRAFT HAD JUST
TAKE OFF ON RUNWAY 05 FOR OPERATIONAL MISSION.
TWO CREW MEMBERS OUT OF SEVEN SURVIVED.
WEATHER: SE AT 5 M.P.H. - VIZ. 1000 YARDS.


ROBERT A. O'DONNELL,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
FLYING CONTROL OFFICER.

COPY:
FIG. 1. (GROUP OPERATIONS)
" " "
FILE

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S T A T E M E N T

18 April 1945.

"This has to do with the crash I was in, and I will try to relate the facts of it to the best of my ability. The first thing that hit my mind was, that we had gotten off the runway sooner than my previous mission, judging from what I believe the runway lights. This was somewhat a surprise to me since we used practically all of the runway on my first mission. I could see the glow thru the port hole of No 2 engine torching and the waist gunner called me to the window to show me. After I had looked I then experienced a tumbling sensation. The next thing I remember was that I was lying next to my waist gunner on the ground. He had said that I had gotten out of the plane and was walking around, apparently in a daze but I don't remember this. I don't know whether the ship exploded or what, since I was undoubtedly at a loss of memory at the time. I judge we were at an altitude of 100 to 150 feet at the time of my noticing the torching."

/s/ Michael C. Lavovsky,
 /t/ MICHAEL C. LAVOVSKY,
 Flight Officer.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

Walter W. Lowell
 WALTER W. LOWELL,
 Major, Air Corps.

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"White House"
Hainford, Norwich.

19 April 1945.

"I, W. A. Giles, Technical Officer, 26 Group, Air Ministry
Awoke at approximately 5 A.M. due to a very low flying ship
passing over my house. Upon looking out of my bedroom window
I heard a machine coming towards me which was carrying a light
and making a terrific noise (not normal) in seconds it crashed,
next to my neighbor's house. I was on the scene a few minutes
later, and did what I could to help the two survivors. I did not
hear any explosion while the ship was in the air.

/s/ W. A. Giles

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.


WALTER W. LAVELL,
Major, Air Corps,
Air Inspector.

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360.33

1st W/Ind.

E-UU-1

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634

To: Chief, Flying Safety, AAF, Winston-Salem 1, N.C. MAY 3 - 1945

1. Transmitted herewith WD AAF Forms No. 14 and allied papers on the following aircraft accidents:

- a. 2nd Lt. David R. Totten, B-24H number 42-95120
- b. 2nd Lt. Joseph J. Devlin, B-24H number 41-29593
- c. 2nd Lt. Rex M. Gibson, B-24J number 42-100425
- d. 1st Lt. Myron A. Wilson, B-24M number 44-42315
- e. 2nd Lt. Merle W. Aunspaugh, P-51C-10 number 42-103793
- f. 1st Lt. Joe D. Nelson, P-51D number 44-72335
- g. 2nd Lt. William C. Fitch, P-51D-20 number 44-63197

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AFS

2. Concur.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Burnis Bohrer
BURNIS BOHRER
Major General
Asst. Adjutant General

✓ 7 Incls:

As above.

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(SA 70-3-458) (45) (AIC # 42-95120 B24 J)