

WAR DEPARTMENT  
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

ACCIDENT No. 10.1

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place AAB, JAAF, JACKSONVILLE, FLA. (2) Date 14 December 1943 (3) Time 1845  
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-24C (5) A. F. No. 41-34799 (6) Station Godman Field, Ft. Knox, Ky.  
Organization: (7) 3rd B.C. 3rd AF (8) 391st Bomb (H) (9) 574th Bombardment Squadron (H)

3 3 B PERSONNEL BM BM 5248

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 P	Metelsky, Peter (-)	P	0-669769	2nd Lt.	01	AC	3rd	None	None
04 CP	Dietachler, Elmer A.	CP	0-692954	2nd Lt.	01	AC	3rd	None	None
64 X	Shupenko, Anthony (-)	X	31109362	Sgt.	20	AC	3rd	None	None
64 X	Jenkins, William B., Jr.	X	33219922	S/Sgt.	20	AC	3rd	None	None
64 EG	Little, Joseph R.	EG	11038778	S/Sgt.	20	AC	3rd	None	None
71 RG	Forster, William J.	RG	33370371	Sgt.	20	AC	3rd	None	None
64 AG	Ramos, Salvador (-)	AG	39289893	Sgt.	20	AC	3rd	None	None
64 X	Halpin, William M.	X	32449879	Pfc.	20	AC	3rd	None	None

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(30) Metelsky, Peter (-) (21) 0-669769 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 01 (24) Air Corps  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)  
Assigned (25) Third (26) 391st Bomb (27) 574th Bomb Sqdn. (28) Godman Field, Ky.  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Attached for flying (29) Third (30) 391st Bomb (31) 574th Bomb Sqdn. (32) Godman Field, Ky.  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 1-2-43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 1-2-43 Instrument rating (37) 8-27-43  
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type 187:00 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 33:00  
(39) This model 138:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 1:00  
(40) Last 90 days 114:00 (44) Night time last 6 months 33:00  
(41) Total 339:00 (45) Night time last 30 days 4:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>Minor</u>	<u>Left Wing Tip</u>
(47) Engine(s) <u>O.K.</u>	
(48) Propeller(s) <u>O.K.</u>	

(49) Weather at the time of accident High thin scattered. Vis. unrestricted. Winds NNE 11 mph

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No

(52) Cleared from Port Knox (53) To Myrtle Beach, S. C. (54) Kind of clearance Instrument

(55) Pilot's mission Administrative

(56) Nature of accident Taxiing

(57) Cause of accident Taxiing behind parked B-25 on ramp without properly checking for clearance

RESTRICTED

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

On the night of 14 December 1943, at approximately 1845 EWT, a B-26 piloted by 2nd Lt Peter Metelsky collided with a parked B-25 airplane on the transient hanger line. Bad weather further south of the terminal and heavy traffic resulted in Jacksonville. Lack of personnel prevented the line crew from guarding each wing tip of parked and taxiing planes.

It is evident that the pilot saw the B-25 parked on the line as he states that he did not think he was that close. It is the opinion of the committee that subject pilot was taxiing too fast and that uncertain as to the exact position of other aircraft ~~and~~ should have stopped before taxiing on.

FINDINGS:

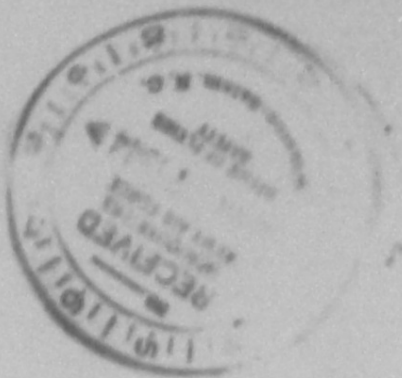
It is the opinion of this committee after having investigated the accident that:

(1) The pilot was taxiing too fast on the ramp where other airplanes were parked. Damage to B-25 reveals that it was struck with a great force to cause resultant damage.

(2) Pilot error.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

(1) Pilots use more caution in taxiing among parked planes.



Signature

Govan C. Real, Capt., AC.

Donald F. Rudolph, 1st Lt., AC.

Wilson L. Peterson, 2nd Lt., AC.

22 December 1943





14 December 1943

DATE

Godman Field, Kentucky

STATION

391st Bomb (M)

GROUP NO. AND TYPE

B-26C

AIRCRAFT MODEL

RODERICK D. SEAL T/Sgt

574th Bomb (M)

SQUADRON NO. AND TYPE

41-34799

AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO.

PERM. CLASS	NAME - RANK - ORGANIZATION	USE AS DIRECTED LOCALLY	ALWAYS ENTER DUTY SYMBOLS WHEN APPLI- CABLE ENTER N - NIGHT OR I - INSTRUMENT. ENTER TIME FLOWN THEREUNDER								FLIGHT DATA	
			DUTY	N OR I	DUTY	N OR I	DUTY	N OR I	DUTY	N OR I	TERMINALS AND MISSION	
	574th Godman Fld											
01	Metalsky, Peter (-) 2nd Lt, O-669769	1 Landing	P								FROM: Godman Fld	14:25
01	Dietschler, Elmer A. 2nd Lt, O-692954		CP								TO: Jacksonville	17:50
20	Little, Joseph R. S/Sgt 11038778		BE								MISSION: A	NO. OF LANDING: 1
20	Ramos, Salvador (-) Sgt 39289893		BE								FROM:	
20	Forster, William J. Sgt 33370371		BE								TO:	
20	Shupenko, Anthony (-) Sgt 31109362		W								MISSION:	NO. OF LANDING:
20	Jenkins, William E. Jr. S/Sgt 33219922		X								FROM:	
20	Halpin, William M. Pfc 32449679		X								TO:	
	Accident occurred while taxiing on										MISSION:	NO. OF LANDING:
	ramp after landing.										FROM:	
											TO:	
	"A TRUE EXTRACT COPY"										MISSION:	NO. OF LANDING:
	<i>Lawrence F. Loebe</i>										FROM:	
	LAWRENCE F. LOEBE, Captain, Air Corps, Operations Officer.										TO:	
											MISSION:	NO. OF LANDING:

WAS DEPARTMENT

FORM NO. 1

1-1-43

FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS

CHECKED

LEGIBLE AND  
CORRECTSPER  
CLARK

TRANSCRIBED

TOTAL FLIGHT  
TIME ENTERED  
ON FORM 1ACREW  
CHIEFTOTAL  
FLIGHT  
TIME

3:25

Incl #3



# FLIGHT REPORT - ENGINEERING

INSPECTION STATUS				SERVICING AT STATION OF TAKE-OFF (CHECK IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TAKE-OFF)											
DATE OF OR HOURS DUE	INSPECTED TODAY			SERVICE	FUEL (GALLONS)		OIL (QUARTS)								RADIATOR CHECKED
	BY	STATION			SERV. ICED	IN TANKS	NO. 1		NO. 2		NO. 3		NO. 4		
PREFLIGHT	12-14-43	Godman Field		1ST			SERV. ICED	IN TANKS	SERV. ICED	IN TANKS	SERV. ICED	IN TANKS	SERV. ICED	IN TANKS	
DAILY	12-13-43	Godman Field		2ND											
25 HOURS	122:50			3RD											
50 HOURS	147:50			4TH											
100 HOURS	197:50			5TH											

INSPECTION OF AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT				STATUS TODAY		EXPLANATION:
EQUIPMENT	SYMBOL	INSPECTED BY	STATION	1.	2.	
BOMBARDMENT						No Oxygen. Dust cover missing on Rt Aux fuel tank.
GUNNERY						
CHEMICAL						
COMMUNICATIONS	J	Jenkins	Godman Field			
PHOTOGRAPHIC						
NAVIGATION						

EXCEPTIONAL RELEASE

WHEN THE "STATUS TODAY" IS INDICATED BY A RED SYMBOL, AND AN "EXCEPTIONAL RELEASE" HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED BY AN AUTHORIZED ENGINEERING OFFICER, THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL SIGN THIS RELEASE BEFORE FLIGHT.

RELEASED FOR FLIGHT

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: PILOTS AND MECHANICS - SEE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE FRONT COVER.

Left Wing tip and Aileron Damaged in collision with other plane (Lt Metelsky)

(Shupenko, A. Sgt - Martin, C. W. Sgt - Steele, F. Sgt)  
Inspected wing tip and Aileron and found O.K.

(Shupenko, A. Sgt)

"A TRUE EXTRACT COPY"

*Lawrence F. Loesch*  
LAWRENCE F. LOESCH,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE TIME RECORD (ENTER IN HOURS AND MINUTES)				
ENGINE	NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4
HOURS TO DATE	98:25	117:15		
HOURS TODAY	3:25	3:25		
TOTAL	101:50	120:40		
OIL CHANGE DUE				
CORE CLEAN-ING DUE				
AIRCRAFT	HOURS TO DATE	115:40		
	HOURS TODAY	3:25		
	TOTAL	119:05		

*Incl 4*

ENGINE DATA				AIRCRAFT DATA		AIRCRAFT ORG. DATA		STATION	
(1) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL-377A	(2) AIRCRAFT MODEL	B-26C	(3) AIR FORCE	3rd	(4) STATION	Godman Field	(5) DATE	12/14/43
(6) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL-389A	(7) AIRCRAFT MODEL	B-26C	(8) GROUP NO. AND TYPE	3rd Bomb (M)	(9) STATION	Godman Field	(10) DATE	12/14/43
(11) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL-389A	(12) AIRCRAFT MODEL	B-26C	(13) STATION NO. AND TYPE	3rd Bomb (M)	(14) STATION	Godman Field	(15) DATE	12/14/43
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(381) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL-389A	(382) AIRCRAFT MODEL	B-26C	(383) STATION NO. AND TYPE	3rd Bomb (M)	(384) STATION	Godman Field	(385) DATE	12/14/43
(386) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL-389A	(387) AIRCRAFT MODEL	B-26C	(388) STATION NO. AND TYPE	3rd Bomb (M)	(389) STATION	Godman Field	(390) DATE	12/14/43
(391) ENGINE SERIAL NO.	AL								

STATEMENT

ARMY AIR BASE,  
JACKSONVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

14 DECEMBER 1943, AT APPROXIMATELY 1845 WHILE TAXIING TO PARK ONE B-26 4799, I HIT AND WRECKED TAIL OF B-25 WITH LEFT WING. LIGHTS ON HANGER WERE BLINDING AND THE ALERT MAN WAS FAR AWAY SHOWING PARKING AREA. IT WAS REALLY HARD TO SEE PLANE BECAUSE OF SAID RAMP LIGHTS ON HANGER. ALSO BEING TIRED AFTER FLIGHT THRU CLOUDS IN FORMATION. FRANKLY I SAY I JUST DIDN'T THINK I WAS THAT CLOSE AND WILL ALMOST SWEAR THERE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH ROOM WITHOUT TAKING CHANCES.

*Peter Metelsky*  
PETER METELSKY,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps,  
Godman Field,  
Ft Knox, Ky.

*Incl #6*

STATEMENT

14 December 1943

I was riding as CO-pilot on the B-26 which hit the rudder of a B-25 with our wing tip. Coming off the runway we were directed to the ramp by a ground crewman at the corner of the ramp and runway. We could see alright there, but taxiing down the ramp we were blinded on the left from flood lamps above the hangers. We passed and saw a C-46 which was in the flood lamps but the B-25 was underneath the beams light which blacked it out. When we were abreast the C-46, our attention was attracted by a flagman on our right who was directing us into a parking space. In my estimation, he was in a poor position to warn us of any obstructions to our left. We were following this flagmans instruction when I glanced to our left and saw the B-25 about 4 ft from us. I shouted almost instataniously but we were too close for the pilot to prevent the accident even though he acted immediately by applying brakes. In my opinion there should have been another flagman in the vicinity of the B-25 especially since the ship was protruding a great deal further out from the line than the other parked ships.

*E. A. Dietschler*  
E. A. DIETSCHLER,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps,

ENCLOSURE



STATEMENT

14 December 1943.

I was watching the flagman and did not see the B-25 out to our left. The tow ships in our formation that had landed before us were parked parallel to the runway and the way the flagman was signaling to us he seemed to mean for us to park at right angles to the other ships.

None of us could figure out just how he wanted us to park and all attention seemed to be centered on the flagman.

As the pilot swung around our wing tip caught the left vertical fin of the B-25 and the momentum carried us clear of the other plane.

The strong lights on top of the hangar were in direct line with the B-25 and may have blinded the pilot as far as his vision to the left was concerned.

*Joseph R. Little*  
JOSEPH R. LITTLE,  
S/Sgt., AC,

Incl. #8

STATEMENT

14 December 1943.

While taxiing in for parking our left wing tip crashed into a B-25 vertical stab. Time was 1800, it was dark and flood lights were on, they were very bright and also threw shadows, I didn't even see the B-25. The flagman was motioning us to keep on coming toward him. The Co-pilot while looking around happen to see the B-25 told the Pilot to stop but it was too late.

SALVADOR RAMOS  
Sgt., AC,  
Engineer-Gunner

*Sgt. Salvador Ramos*

**STATEMENT**

**ARMY AIR BASE  
JACKSONVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
24 DECEMBER 1943**

While in route to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, travelling through very bad weather, forced to land at Jacksonville, Florida, at 1800. While taxing down the ramp to park, we clipped the tail assembly of a B-25 airplane. Blinding lights from the hanger, also poor visibility prevented me from seeing the flagman.

I certify the above statement to be true to the best of my knowledge.

*Sgt. Wm. J. Forster*  
**Sgt. Wm. J. Forster  
Radio Gunner**

*Incl # 10*



STATEMENT

ARMY AIR BASE  
JACKSONVILLE ARMY AIRFIELD  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

14th. DECEMBER 1943 SHIP NO. 4799 MY POSITION IN SHIP WAS IN TAIL SECTION.  
I CAN SAY VERY LITTLE ABOUT MY TRIP FROM GOODMAN FIELD TO JACKSONVILLE  
FLORIDA.  
4799 TOOK OFF AT 1325 FROM GOODMAN FIELD LANDS 1400 AT JACKSONVILLE FIELD FLA.

*S/Sgt. W.B. Jenkins Jr.*  
S/SGT. W.B. JENKINS JR.  
57th. SQDN. 991st. GROUP  
GOODMAN FIELD KY.

574TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF  
Office of the Operations Officer  
Godman Field

Fort Knox, Kentucky  
20 December 1943

OPERATIONS ORDERS)  
NO )

**EXTRACT**

The following mission was ordered as of this date:

4. 2nd Lt PETER (-) METELSKY, AC, O-669769, P, in a B-26C ap, AAF No 41-34799, with 2nd Lt ELMER A. DIETSCHLER, AC, O-692954, CP; S/Sgt JOSEPH R. LITTLE, 11038778, EG, 574th; Sgt WILLIAM J. FORSTER, 33370371, EG, 574th; Sgt SALVADOR (-) RAMOS, 39289893, X, 574th; Sgt ANTHONY (-) SHUPENKO, 31109362, X, 574th, and S/Sgt WILLIAM B. JENKINS, Jr., 33219922, X, 574th, will take off o/a 1450 on a X-C flight to Myrtle Beach Bombing Range, S. C., for the purpose of obtaining gunnery practice.

By order of Major BRANDON:

*Lawrence F. Loesch*  
LAWRENCE F. LOESCH,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

"A TRUE EXTRACT COPY"

LAWRENCE F. LOESCH,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

*Incl 5*

HEADQUARTERS  
ARMY AIR BASE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

G-RHN/job

6 JAN 1944

IN REPLY REFER TO:

File 360.33

CHATHAM FIELD, GEORGIA.

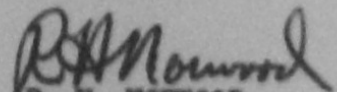
SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report, AAF 62-14

TO : Commanding Officer, Headquarters, AAF Office of Flying Safety,  
Winston-Salem, N C

1. Herewith Forms 14 covering accident of B-26C, AAF Serial Number 41-34799, and B-25D, AAF Serial Number 42-87303, and allied papers.

2. The above accident occurred at Army Air Base, Jacksonville Army Air Field, Jacksonville, Florida, 14 December 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:



R. H. NORWOOD  
2d Lt, AC  
Asst Adjutant.

- 11 Incls. - one (1) of ea
- Incl 1 - AAF Form 14 (B-26C)
- Incl 2 - AAF Form 14 (B-25D)
- Incl 3 - AAF Form 1
- Incl 4 - AAF Form 1A
- Incl 5 - Operations Orders
- Incl 6 - Pilots Statement
- Incl 7 - Co-pilots Statements
- Incl 8 - Statement of S/Sgt Little
- Incl 9 - Statement of Sgt Ramos
- Incl 10 - Statement of Sgt Forster
- Incl 11 - Statement of S/Sgt Jenkins