NAME OF PILOT	TYPE OF PLANE	ACCIDENT NUMBER
THAYER, JOHN C.	B-26	45-4-19-526

CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN

LSB 3015-45 OPB

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WAR DEPARTMENT
A.A.F. Form No. 14
(Revised 1 May 15, 1942)

5-28

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WAR DEPARTMENT
AAF STATION A-72
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

ACCIDENT No. _____

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place A-71 (2) Date 19 April 1945 (3) Time 1530

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-26G15 (5) A. F. No. 44-67809 (6) Station A-72

Organization: (7) 9 B.D. Ninth AF (Command and Air Force) (8) - - - - - (Group) (9) 1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov. (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	Thayer, John C.	P	0-426445	Capt.	01	AC	Ninth AF	None	No
CP	Manley, Dean W.	P	0-2057223	2nd. Lt.	01	AC	Ninth AF	None	No
N	Leonard, John R.	B	0-862280	1 Lt.	01	AC	Ninth AF	None	No
B	Smith, Wilfred L.	B	0-443717	Capt.	01	AC	Ninth AF	Minor	No
EG	Phelps, Homer V.	EG	38273573	Cpl.	31	AC	Ninth AF	None	No
RG	Rosenberg, Norman (NMI)	RG	32864178	Cpl.	21	AC	Ninth AF	None	No
TG	Murphy, Daniel L.	TG	31370427	Cpl.	21	AC	Ninth AF	None	No

XPILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENTX

(20) Thayer (Last name) John (First name) C. (Middle initial) (21) 0-426445 (Serial number) (22) Capt. (Rank) (23) 01 (Personnel class) (24) AC (Branch)

Assigned (25) 9th. B.D. Ninth AF (Command and Air Force) (26) 397th. (Group) (27) - - - - (Squadron) (28) A-72 (Station)

Attached for flying (29) 9th. B.D. Ninth AF (Command and Air Force) (30) - - - - (Group) (31) 1st. Pathfinder Sq. (Squadron) (32) A-72 (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 26/9/41 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 26/9/41 (Date) Instrument rating (37) - - - - (Date)

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

(38) This type	1500:00	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	14:00
(39) This model	55:00	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	02:00
(40) Last 90 days	74:00	(44) Night time last 6 months	06:00
(41) Total	1655:35	(45) Night time last 30 days	02:00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

NF-OR-1

DAMAGE					(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft				M	Complete Wreck
(47) Engine(s)				M	
(48) Propeller(s)				M	

Props 1

(50) Weather at the time of accident CAVU EH

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

(52) Cleared from A-71 (53) To A-72 (54) Kind of clearance O

"J" Form

(55) Pilot's mission Combat Mission

(56) Nature of accident A/C crashed on take-off.

(57) Cause of accident Right engine cut out on Take-off.

(58) Has Form 54 been submitted? No.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

On 19 April 1945 at approximately 1655 hours aircraft 4[illegible]-87509 piloted by Capt. Thayer was making a normal take-off with the 397th. Bomb. Group. At an altitude of approximately 150 feet the right engine backfired several times and then lost power completely. The aircraft did not have sufficient altitude or airspeed to be flown around with full load so the pilot cut his switches and landed straight ahead in an open field. The aircraft was a total wreck. None of the bombs went off. The aircraft has been turned over to the Flat. Air Depot.

The responsibility for the crash rests 100% on mechanical failure of the right engine. The cause of engine failure is unknown.

Aircraft Accident Committee:

Joseph M DuBois
JOSEPH M. DU BOIS,
1st. Lt., Air Corps,
(President)

Allen R. Kennedy
ALLEN R. KENNEDY,
Captain, MC,
Flight Surgeon.

George B Davis
GEORGE B. DAVIS,
1st. Lt., Air Corps,
(Member)

Gilbert C. Hein
GILBERT C. HEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
S-2 Officer.

Donald C Madden
DONALD C. MADDEN,
1st. Lt., Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

Signature Joseph M DuBois (Investigating Officer)
JOSEPH M. DU BOIS, 1st. Lt. AC
George B Davis
GEORGE B. DAVIS, 1st. Lt., AC
Donald C Madden
DONALD C. MADDEN, 1st. Lt. AC

Date 24 April 1945

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

21 April 1945

S T A T E M E N T

On April 19th. at 1530, I took off in number two position in the formation of the 387th. Group. Take-off was normal. Approximately 150 feet in the air the right engine commenced to backfire. The airplane skidded to the right indicating loss of power on the right engine. At the end of the fourth backfire, all power on the right engine failed. The aircraft was too low and traveling too slowly to attempt a single engine go around procedure.

The power on the good engine was shut off, the switches cut, and a belly landing accomplised straight ahead. The landing was successful. The aircraft was demolished, but no one was injured. The aircraft has been turned over to the 91st. Air Depot.

John C. Thayer

JOHN C. THAYER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Pilot.

Incl #2

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

21 April 1945

S T A T E M E N T

On April 19th., I was flying as Co-Pilot on aircraft 44-67809. Take-off was made at 1530 in the number two position of the 387th. Group's formation. Take-off was normal. At approximately 150 feet in the air I heard the right engine backfire and felt the plane skid to the right. The engine backfired four times. At the end of the fourth backfire, the pilot cut both throttles and called for a crash landing.

I cut the switches just prior to the landing. Landing was successfully made in an open field. There was no indication by any instruments to warn us of engine failure. No one was injured.

Dean W. Manley
DEAN W. MANLEY,
2nd. Lt., Air Corps,
Co-Pilot.

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S T A T E M E N T

On April 19, 1945 I was sitting in a jeep at the East end of the runway watching the planes take off toward the East. After four ships had become airborne I looked towards the East and saw the second plane losing altitude fast. It was out of sight soon afterwards but a huge cloud of dust was visible indicating it had crashed. Captain CHARLES P. BECK, who was with me in the jeep, and I proceeded immediately to the place it had crashed. I talked with the pilot on arrival and he said he had to make a crash landing because of failure of the right engine. The plane was a total wash out, the fuselage being torn and twisted badly at the radio compartment, both wings slightly buckled and left wing with extensive damage at the leading edge near the fuselage.

Hugh W. Skidmore Jr.

HUGH W. SKIDMORE JR.
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Engineering Officer
53rd Air Service Sq.

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FLYING CONTROL
USAAF STATION A-71

22 April 1945

SUBJECT : Aircraft Accident

TO : Commanding Officer, 1st. Pathfinder Group.

1. Aircraft number 809, (PFF), took off at 1531 hours on 18 April 1945 and seemed to be in no difficulty.

2. At 1532 hours, aircraft number 327, (387 Bomb. Gp.), called control to say PFF had belly-landed 2 miles east of field.

3. Cause of crash not known at this office, as no one in control saw the aircraft go down.

John O. Baranek
John O. Baranek
1st. Lt. A.C.
Flying Control Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
1ST PATHFINDER SQUADRON (M), PROVISIONAL, AAF
APO 140, U.S. ARMY.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING OFFICER

F1-M-1

25 April 1945

SUBJECT: Accident Report of Aircraft, Serial No. 44-67809.

TO : Commanding Officer, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional, APO 140, U.S. Army.
(Attention: S-3 Officer.)

At approximately 15:30 hours, 19 April 1945, Aircraft Model No. B-26G15, Serial No. 44-67809, crashed near AAF Station A-71 and was completely destroyed.

A visual examination of the Aircraft determined that it was a complete loss. At the bulk head between the Navigator's compartment and forward bombay, fuselage was torn open and twisted, both wings were buckled with leading edges damaged.

The Aircraft has been turned over to 91st Air Depot, AAF Sta. Y-29.

Donald C. Madden
DONALD C. MADDEN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
1ST PATHFINDER SQUADRON (M), PROVISIONAL, AAF
APO 140, U.S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING OFFICER

F1-M-1

25 April 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that Aircraft Model B-26G15, Serial Number 44-67809, crashed at approximately 15:30 hours, 19 April 1945, and is a complete loss.

Donald C. Madden
DONALD C. MADDEN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

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WEATHER OFFICE A-71

22 APRIL, 1945

THE SURFACE WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1500 HRS AND 1600 HRS ON 18 APRIL WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1500 HRS BST: NO LOW OR MIDDLE CLOUDS. 7-8/10 HIGH CIRRUS. VISIBILITY 6 MILES. SURFACE WIND 070 DEGS. 4-7 MPH.

1600 HRS BST: SAME AS 1500 HRS OBSERVATION EXCEPT SURFACE WIND 045 DEGS. 4-7 MPH.

M/Sgt. James R. Holliday
FORECASTER

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HEADQUARTERS
1st. Pathfinder Squadron Prov.
APO 140, U.S. Army

E-D-1

360.33

21 April 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U.S. Army.
Attention: A-3.

1. Transmitted herewith is AAF Form 14 and supporting papers concerning accident of aircraft B-26G15, 44-67809, which occurred on 19 April 1945, at A-71.

For the Squadron Commander:

William F. McCrone

WILLIAM F. McCRONE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

8 Incl:
Incl. 1: AAF Form 14.
Incl. 2: Statement of John C. Thayer, Capt., AC.
Incl. 3: Statement of Dean W. Manley, 2nd. Lt., AC.
Incl. 4: Statement of Engineering Officer.
Incl. 5: Assessment of Damage to A/C.
Incl. 6: Statement of Weather Officer.
Incl. 7: Statement of Flying Control Officer.
Incl. 8: Statement of Lt. H.W. Skidmore, Jr.

360.33 1st Ind. E-Q-3

HEADQUARTERS 9TH AIR DIVISION, APO 140, U. S. ARMY, 15 May 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U. S. Army.

1. Submitted in compliance with Memorandum 55-1, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, dated 5 March 1945.

2. Delay in submission caused by further investigation at this headquarters. Forms 1 and 1A have been requested from 91st Air Depot Group and will be forwarded upon receipt.

For the Commanding General:

17 MAY 45
HEADQUARTERS
NINTH U. S.
AIR FORCE

S. L. PARMENTER,
CAPTAIN, A.C.
ASS'T ADJ. GEN.

9 Incls: 1 Incl added.
Incls 1 to 8 - n/c (in trip)
Incl 9 - 1st & 2nd W/Inds (in trip)

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360.33 2nd Ind. E
HEADQUARTERS, NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, US Army, 22 May 1945.

To: Commanding General, AAF, Winston-Salem 1, North Carolina. (Attn: Chief, Flying Safety.)

Report of Aircraft Accident Committee approved.

For the Commanding General:

HERBERT P. LEWIS,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Asst Adj General.

8 Incls: (Incl 9 w/d)
Incls 1 thru 8 - n/c (2 cys ea w/d)

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