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

ACCIDENT No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
STATION A-55
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place 3 miles south Villeneuve St. George (2) Date 8 February 1945 (3) Time 1220

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model A-26B-20 (5) A. F. No. 41-39222 (6) Station A-55

Organization: (7) 9th BD-Ninth AF (8) 416 Bomb (L) (9) 670 Bomb (L)
(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	Steed, George H.	Pilot	0-799490	1st Lt.	18	AC	Ninth AF	Fatal	None
G	Tranchina, Carl E.	Gunner	32879614	Sgt	38	AC	Ninth AF	Major	None

[redacted]

(20) Steed (Last name) George (First name) H (Middle initial) (21) 0-799490 (Serial number) (22) 1st.Lt. (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AC (Branch)

Assigned (25) 9th BD - Ninth AF (Command and Air Force) (26) 416 Bomb (L) (Group) (27) 669 Bomb (L) (Squadron) (28) A-55 (Station)

Attached for flying (29) - (Command and Air Force) (30) - (Group) (31) - (Squadron) (32) - (Station)

Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 3/25/43 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 3/25/43 (Date) Instrument rating (37) - (Date)

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

(38) This type	A-26	32:00	(42) Instrument time last 6 months		-
(39) This model	A-26B	32:00	(43) Instrument time last 30 days		-
(40) Last 90 days		32:00	(44) Night time last 6 months		-
(41) Total		340:30	(45) Night time last 30 days		-

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

	DAMAGE				(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	W				Complete loss.
(47) Engine(s)	W	W			Complete loss.
(48) Propeller(s)	W	W			Complete loss.

(50) Weather at the time of accident 6-7/10 stratus at 1,000 feet. 4-5 miles visibility.

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

(52) Cleared from Station A-55 (53) To Station A-55 (54) Kind of clearance Operational

(55) Pilot's mission Combat

(56) Nature of accident Landing accident. Attempted forced landing due to shortage of gasoline.

(57) Cause of accident Pilot error. Error in judgement.

(58) Has the Form 54 been submitted? No.

RESTRICTED

16—28757-1

RESTRICTED

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

NARRATIVE:

Returning from an operational mission on 8 February 1945, Lt. Steed called his formation leader and told him that he had only a small supply of gasoline. He was instructed to leave the formation and land. He then called for homing, stating that he had only four minutes of remaining flying time. However, ground stations were unable to contact him. Later the wreckage of his aircraft was found in a wooded area.

Investigation disclosed no gasoline in any of the fuel containers. Lt. Steed was evidently attempting to make a wheels up landing in an open field when he crashed into some tall trees. It is believed that he either undershot the field and hit the trees, or that he was in a steep bank, turning on his final approach, when one or both engines quit due to lack of gasoline.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pilot error. Error in judgement. The pilot waited too long after he noticed a shortage of gasoline before he attempted to obtain aid in locating an airfield.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

All pilots should be warned to land while they still have an emergency reserve supply of gasoline. If they cannot land, they should abandon the aircraft while sufficient gasoline remains to properly trim up the aircraft for level flight.

INCLOSURES: 3
Incl. #1 - Statement of Engineering Officer.
Incl. #2 - Statement of Crew Chief.
Incl. #3 - Photographs.

APPROVED: Theodore R. Aylesworth

THEODORE R. AYLESWORTH,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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Richard F. Shaefer
Signature (Investigating Officer)
RICHARD F. SHAEFER, Capt., Air Corps.
Harold A. Radetsky
HAROLD A. RADETSKY, Lt.Col., Air Corps.
Kenneth T. Roney
KENNETH T. RONEY, Major, Air Corps.

Date 16 February 1945.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—25757-1

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670TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

APO # 140,
17 February 1945.

STATEMENT

Aircraft A26B-20DL, 41-39222, which crashed landed 8 Feb. 1945 had a total flying time of 119:25 hours. Subject aircraft had a 100 hour inspection completed with a total time of 106:35. According to the form 41B the average gas consumption for the last 37 hours of flying time amounted to 153 gallons per hr. All discrepancies were noted on Form 1A.

Robert J. Kehres
ROBERT J. KEHRES,
Captain, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

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Encl #2

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670TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

APO # 140,
17 February 1945.

STATEMENT

Airplane No. 41-39222 was in safe mechanical condition to be flown, and all discrepancies were noted on the Form 1A, and Form 41B that existed on subject airplane. All servicing and preflight inspections had been performed prior to release of ship for flight.

S/Sgt. Frank Pellegrino

FRANK PELLEGRINO,
S/Sgt., Air Corps,
Crew Chief.

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Incl to 3

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Incl #3 4

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E - R - 5

HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
Office of the Commanding Officer

APO 140, U.S. Army,
18 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of AAF Form 14.

TO : Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.

Transmitted herewith is AAF Form 14 in quadruplicate (with inclosures) on accident of Lt. George H. Steed in aircraft A-26B-20, ACSN 41-39222, 8 February 1945.

F

For the Commanding Officer:

RECEIVED
19 FEB 1945

GEORGE SCHENKEIN,
Capt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl - AAF Form 14 in quadruplicate (with inclosures).

360.33 1st Ind. E-Q-3
HEADQUARTERS 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M), APO 140, U. S. ARMY, 6 March 1945.

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

Submitted in compliance with Memorandum 55-1, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, dated 27 November 1944.

F

For the Commanding General:

RECEIVED
8 MAR 1945
HEADQUARTERS
Ninth Air Force
A.G. Section

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

4 Incls:
Incl 1 - AAF Form 14 (in trip)
Incl 2 - Statement of Engineering Officer (in trip)
Incl 3 - Statement of Crew Chief (in trip)
Incl 4 - Photographs (in trip)

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RESTRICTED

360.33 2nd Ind. E
HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, US Army, 13 March 1945.

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

Report and recommendation of Aircraft Accident Committee approved.

For the Commanding General:

Harry E. Coch
HAROLD L. CARTER,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Asst Adj General.

4 Incls: n/c (2 cys ea w/d)

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— 5A —

NAME OF PILOT			TYPE OF PLANE			ACCIDENT NUMBER		
Steed, George H.			A-26B			43-2-8-538		
CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN	CHARGED TO:	OUT	IN
M.V. - Capt. Bache	4-13	3/3						

Accident No. 45-2-2-538

Date

Checked by [illegible] 4-2-45

Analyzed by [illegible] 4/2

Copied for Wright Field by

Notes Cast Back 2 May 45

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3989: 10-44 FS