



# The Freckleton, England, Air Disaster

The B-24 Crash That Killed  
38 Preschoolers and 23 Adults,  
August 23, 1944

JAMES R. HEDTKE



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The Freckleton catastrophe of August 23, 1944, occurred when an American B-24 Liberator crashed into the small village of Freckleton in northwest England. Prior to the fire could possibly be brought under control, the holocaust destroyed an entire generation of kids in this village of fewer than 1,000 inhabitants. As the B-24 tumbled through the village, destroying three houses and a snack bar, flames erupted from wreckage and engulfed Holy Trinity quality school. When the pilot attempted to abort the landing because of poor presence and high winds, a downdraft caught the plane and it crashed in to the adjacent village of Freckleton. Air traffic control at the American air bottom Warton recalled the bomber back to the bottom. The plane was on a test flight when it encountered a uncommon and severe summer time thunderstorm. In a compelling account of sorrow, loss, wish and lastly rebirth, the book talks about the annals of the village, the establishment of the base at Warton, the crash, the funeral of the 61 victims, the official British inquest and the American investigation into the cause of the crash. The village would never be the same. The lives of the survivors, the servicemen and the villagers are adopted through 2012.



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greater than a story, this is part of my family history So many of my family's names can be found in this story. Hedtke's writing never turns into sensational or overly sentimental, maintaining a careful balance while relating the tale of the disaster. More than that, it is normally put in the larger context of WWII and clarifies WHY this tragedy got so small coverage. Recommend. Through tremendous research and first-hand eye-witness and survivor accounts, he has arranged the occasions of August 23, 1944 in time and place during Globe War II and offered the reader not just a vivid picture of the town of Freckleton, England, the united states airbase of Warton in northwest England and the villagers and servicemen who lived in the region but also the context of that which was happening on a worldwide front at that time in the war. Done well! I was relocated by the stories of those young children, the majority of whom died that day and the touching and heroic accounts of those who survived the disaster and have there been to fight the fire, rescue the teenagers or carry those small coffins. Hedtke's reserve brings alive the tragedy that took place, the grief experienced by those involved, but also their perseverance through the tragedy and its own aftermath to greatly help those in need. Four Stars Interesting slice of history and our relationship with a small city in England. I'd recommend this reserve to anyone interested in compelling, real-life tales about people and occasions that form who we are as humans and a society. History teacher James R Hedtke wrote a very good book. The reserve not only information the tragedy of the B-24 crash, but also provides a wider historic and modern-day background on the small city of Freckleton, and its own inhabitants. It is normally a tale that would have to be told and I am grateful that it had been written while there were still first-hands witnesses to provide it depth. It would sell well if obtainable in Lancashire, I am sure. This book is recommended to lovers of aviation and war history, since it sheds light on a little-known but disastrous incident. You get covered up in the tale and the details about this sleepy city turned upside down, only later to understand that you have simply had a brief history lesson. This balance absolutely carries the publication, as erring too far in either path would do a disservice to the tragedy. My grandparent's, parent's and cousin's brands fill the webpages of this well told, true tale, in a manner that brings the background alive. Sad story. His style is gripping, keeping the reader's attention at all times. This book is full of detail and background galore, providing not only the story of those fatal short while, but also the histories of Freckleton and British military air accidents, in addition to the way the disaster affected those involved years down the line. Delicate History of a tragedy It's a hard task to write about air disasters respectfully, particularly when they concern the large lack of children. Great reserve! His writing can be deeply-researched, drawing from many resources in lots of different points in time. The author did a fantastic job telling the story of a little known event during World War II that disastrously linked the US and Britain in a heartbreaking tragedy. The author has finally done a great justice to the 61 adults and kids who dropped their lives, by detailing the events of August 23rd 1944, in the little Fylde village of Freckleton England. Excellent, readable historical documentary This book provides detailed historical account on an event during WWII, of which myself and most other people have never heard. This might sell well in Lancashire I purchased this for my mother whose most effective friend is a survivor from the institution. Worth the read! This story is beautifully written. The writer is actually passionate about honoring the lives of those dropped in this disaster - it is an excellent tribute to the resiliency of a small city in England during WWII. The historical facts are weaved throughout the story with the bigger context of the battle in the background. James R Hedtke's narrative doesn't just tell the story in a cold, scientific fashion in comprehensive detachment, but rather an assortment of personal touches and detachment carry the historical accounts. It had been such a big story that it took no less than the finish of the war in Europe to

obscure it.



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