

507

Accident No. 45-8-7-507

Date

Checked by SPM 8-30-44

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

1225:9-43

RESTRICTED
WAR DEPARTMENT

ACCIDENT No. 45-8-7-507
0507

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place AAF Station 130, A P O 557 (2) Date 7 August 1944 (3) Time 2201
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G 44 (5) A. F. No. 42-97451 (6) Station AAF 130
Organization: (7) 8th AF 8th BC (8) 457th (9) 751st (Squadron)
(Command and Air Force) (Group)

PERSONNEL BH Y337

| DUITY (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) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 61 P | MORROW, EARL M. | P | 0-751562 | 2nd Lt. | 180 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 61 CP | STEWACH, WILLIAM M. | CP | 0-762057 | 2nd Lt. | 181 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 65 N | SHAFER, GEORGE E. JR. | N | 0-750020 | 2nd Lt. | 182 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 61 B | LISICA, SAMUEL J. | B | 7-2897 | F/O | 183 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 61 Eng | Upton, Clifford A. | Eng | 16017745 | Sgt. | 184 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 7 RO | Lindquist, Charles E. | RO | 37656278 | Sgt. | 185 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |
| 64 BTG | Koerber, Robert K. | BTG | 35915113 | Sgt. | 186 | AC | 8th AF | None | None |

RECEIVED
HEADQUARTERS
8TH AIR FORCE
AUG 21 1944

(20) MORROW, EARL M. (Last name) (21) 0-751562 (22) 2nd Lt. (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AC (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th BC, 8th AF (Command and Air Force) (26) 457th (Group) (27) 751st (Squadron) (28) AAF 130 (Station) Y337
Attached for flying (29) 8th BC, 8th AF (Command and Air Force) (30) 457th (Group) (31) 751st (Squadron) (32) AAF 130 (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (Rating) (34) 7/28/43 (Date) Present rating (35) Pilot (Rating) (36) 7/28/43 (Date) Instrument rating (37) 10/1/43 (Date) K

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)
(38) This type B-17 173.35 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 25.15
(39) This model B-17G 151.55 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 0.00
(40) Last 90 days 109.10 (44) Night time last 6 months 29.50
(41) Total 173.35 (45) Night time last 30 days 0.00

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NR

| DAMAGE | (46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (46) Aircraft <u>M 1</u> | <u>#1 & #2 props - #1 & #2 Superchargers -</u> |
| (47) Engine(s) <u>M 4 #1, #2</u> | <u>Left wing panel - Ball turret - left retracting assembly.</u> |
| (48) Propeller(s) <u>M 4 #1, #2</u> | |

(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 AAF Station 130 (53) To AAF Station 130 (54) Kind of clearance non-operational

(55) Pilot's mission Practice formation Y337

(56) Nature of accident Left landing gear collapsed on landing roll.

(57) Cause of accident Left landing gear drag link broke.

(58) AAF Form 54 not submitted. **RESTRICTED** 60

Incl. #6

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

The Pilot of aircraft 42-97451 made a hard landing on the left wheel; causing the left drag link to break and collapsing the left wheel. The accident committee contributed the accident to 100% structural failure. There is no indication of a hard landing which the drag link should or could not have withstood. The drag link bolt was found to be very loose causing an extra strain on the drag link itself.

Recommend that a closer check be made on the drag link bolt as to its tightness at periodic inspections.

Theodore C. Hoffman

THEODORE C. HOFFMAN,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Accident Committee Officer.

George A. Bessie

GEORGE A. BESSIE,
Major, Air Corps,
Accident Committee Officer.

Signature

Wilbur D. Snow
(Investigating Officer)

WILBUR D. SNOW,
Major, Air Corps,

Aircraft Accident Officer.

Date _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATEMENT

RESTRICTED

Aircraft number 42-97451 was flown by me on a practice formation mission 7 August 1944. I returned to the field at approximately 2200 hours and made the usual "before landing check". The engineer checked the gear down with the crank. I made approach on Runway 10 and landed. There was a slight bounce but no exceptionally hard landing and no crab. A few seconds after roll began, the left side of the aircraft sagged and I looked out to see the "drag link" broken and left gear partially collapsed. The brakes went out as hydraulic line was cut. I kept the aircraft on the runway by kicking the rudder until the aircraft slowed down to approximately 40 MPH when we started off the right side of the runway. The left gear then collapsed completely and a ground loop was started to the left. I throttled the right engines to increase ground loop to avoid the aircraft taxiing on perimeter track. The aircraft came to rest after 180° ground loop. The switches were cut and personnel evacuated. The landing flaps were put in the "up" position by the co-pilot during roll. No personnel were injured.

EARL M. MORROW,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (E-AF-1)
Office of the Flying Control Officer
AAF Station 130
U. S. Army

9 August 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

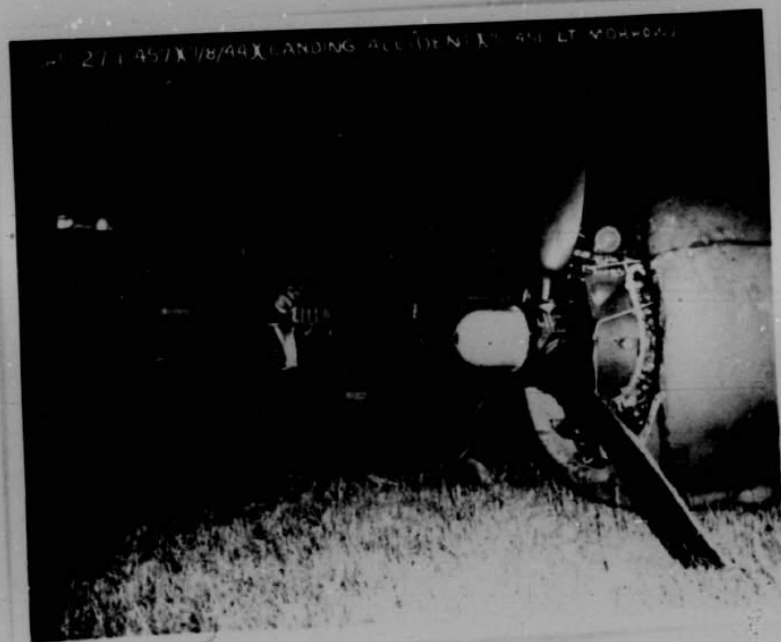
TO : Aircraft Accident Officer, 457th Bombardment Group, APO 557, U. S. Army.

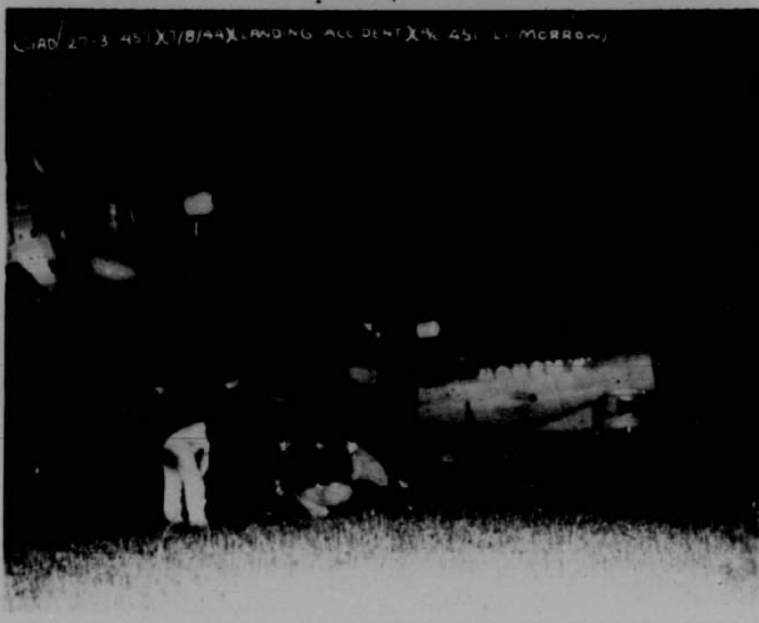
1. At 2204 hours 7 August 1944 B-17 #42-97451 made a crash landing at this station.

2. The duty airfield controller reported the pilot made a hard landing on the left wheel and there was a loud noise when the aircraft touched down. As the aircraft passed the tower I noticed the left landing gear was low. Half way up the runway the landing gear collapsed and the aircraft ground looped to the left leaving the runways and then came to a stop.

George P. Overbey
GEORGE P. OVERBEY,
Capt, AC,
Senior Flying Control Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
RESTRICTED





RESTRICTED