

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACCIDENT No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCE

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

RESTRICTED

195

Place Station 127 (2) Date 30 November 1943 (3) Time 1753
CRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17 F (5) A. F. No. 41-2717 (6) Station 106 Z 354
Organization: (7) 8th (8) 384th Bomb (H) (9) 547th Bomb (H)

SAF PERSONNEL 384BH 547BH S

NAME (Last name first)	RATING (12)	SERIAL NO. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OF (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
DeFREES, NORMAN F.	P	0-740763	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th	None /	No
SMITH, ROGER C.	P	0-680747	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th	None /	No
MOODY, IVAN E.	N	0-685692	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th	None /	No
REID, HARVEY W.	P	0-684413	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th	None /	No
SHIPLEY, CHARLES M.	R	6945595	Sgt.	20	AC	8th	None /	No
MOORE, LLOYD W.	A	19002060	S/ Sgt.	20	AC	8th	None /	No
SMITH, LELAND R.	A	13021680	Sgt.	20	AC	8th	None /	No

RECEIVED
HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCE
JAN 12 1944
OFFICE OF FLYING
SAFETY

DeFREES, NORMAN (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (23) 01 (24) AC
signed (25) 8th (26) 384th Bomb (27) 547th Bomb (28) 106 Z 354
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
attached for flying (29) (30) SAME (31) (32) Z 354
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
original rating (33) Pilot (34) Mar. 10, 43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 3-10-43 Instrument rating (37) (Data)

PILOT'S HOURS:

(1) time of this accident

(38) This type Pilots' form 5 file (42) Instrument time last 6 months
(39) This model not available (43) Instrument time last 30 days
(40) Last 90 days (44) Night time last 6 months
(41) Total (45) Night time last 30 days

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(46) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	
(47) Engine(s)	
(48) Propeller(s)	

(49) Weather at the time of accident 1/10 Cloud 2,500 feet; visibility 2 miles; dusk.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident
(52) Cleared from Station 127 (53) To Station 106 (54) Kind of clearance

(55) Pilot's mission Ferrying plane

(56) Nature of accident Planned crash landing

(57) Cause of accident

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

In attempting to land, plane landed short on edge of perimeter, striking fairly hard; he then proceeded around the circuit to try to land again. Observers noticed left landing gear jar backward when plane touched down, the pilot was contacted from the tower and upon investigation by him, discovered that the drag link on left landing gear was completely severed. Flying Control was notified immediately who then instructed the pilot to fly to Station 127, 2nd Strategic Air Depot, and crash land.

Statements of the pilot, Flying Control Officer, 2nd Strategic Air Depot with photos taken by them are attached.

Signature

Reavy H. Giles
REAVY H. GILES,
1st Lt., (Acting),
Asst Operations Officer.

Date 12 December 1943.

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STATEMENT

December 11, 1943

"I was on duty in the Control Tower on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 November 1943, when aircraft 5747, 545th Bomb. Grp., returning from Little Staughton made a low approach on Runway 30, East to West. Aircraft landed short on edge of perimeter, striking pretty hard. Observers at the Airfield Controller's caravan noticed left landing gear jar backward when aircraft touched down. Aircraft started around the circuit to try to land again, we contacted him from the tower as had him come across the Tower so we could observe the position of landing gear through binoculars. Pilot reported at this time that he could not re-trust the damaged gear. Instructed him to continue circling while I notified the Operations Officer. Operations Officer told me to instruct the Pilot to take aircraft to Little Staughton and crash land it. I then notified Little Staughton and asked them to inform us when ship had landed and the extent of the damage to ship and crew. I then turned the watch over to Capt. Oversey."

Selby H. Skinner
SELBY H. SKINNER
2nd Lt., A. C.
Flying Control Officer

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