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

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AAF STATION # 127
WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

44-12 26-307

(1) Place AAF STATION # 127 (2) Date 26 December 1943 (3) Time 1752

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 42-37781 (6) Station AAF 106 Z-354

Organization: (7) VIII Bomber Comd. (8) 384th Bomb (H) (9) 546th Bomb (H)
(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	Stier, George W.	P	O-435519	1st Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	No
CP	Bertram, Harold J.	P	O-686446	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	
B	Heine, Robert E.	B	O-686084	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	
N	Harvey, Ralph Q.	N	O-688040	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	
RO	Schliske, Albert L.	RO	17055705	S/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	
E	Kane, Frances P.	E	32465058	S/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	
BT	Dawid, Alfred A.	G	11091685	Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	
TG	Mack, Melvin B.	G	37462864	Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	
WG	Merten, Richard A.	G	16014723	Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	
WG	Daddy, Martin J.	G	31083170	Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Stier (Last name) George (First name) W. (Middle initial) (21) [illegible] (Serial number) (22) 1st Lt. (Rank) (23) 18 (Personnel class) (24) AC (Branch)

Assigned (25) VIII Bomber (H) (Command and Air Force) (26) 384th Bomb(H) (Group) (27) 546th Bomb (H) (Squadron) (28) AAF 106 Z-354 (Station)

Attached for flying (29) VIII Bomb (H) (Command and Air Force) (30) 384th Bomb (Group) (31) 546th Bomb (H) (Squadron) (32) AAF 106 Z-354 (Station)

Original rating (33) [illegible] (Rating) (34) [illegible] (Date) Present rating (35) [illegible] (Rating) (36) [illegible] (Date) Instrument rating (37) [illegible] (Date)

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

(38) This type	173:50	(42) Instrument time last 6 months	
(39) This model	16:10	(43) Instrument time last 30 days	
(40) Last 90 days	67:20	(44) Night time last 6 months	
(41) Total	511:05	(45) Night time last 30 days	

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE					
(46) Aircraft	N	4			
(47) Engine(s)	O	4	4	4	4
(48) Propeller(s)	M	4	4	4	4

(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS: 4 Engines, 4 Propellors, Chin Turret, Ball Turret & tra[illegible] Flexiglass nose section, Skin stiffeners, & circumferen[illegible] ials from Sta. 1 to Sta 6H, of underside of fuselage, right and left wing flaps, 4 superchargers, Skin, Stringers & Firewall of no. 2 nacelle.

(50) Weather at the time of accident 2/10 cloud 4,000 feet, visibility 2500 yards, wind W 8 MPH

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(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident Night

(52) Cleared from AAF 106 Z-354 (53) To AAF 127 Y-515 (54) Kind of clearance Contact O

(55) Pilot's mission Training 71

(56) Nature of accident Right landing gear could not be extended. Pilot was sent to AAF Station 127, to make a crash landing. Crash landing was accomplished successfully.

(57) Cause of accident Failure of right hand main landing gear motor drive shaft.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

On 26 December 1943, B-17G 42-37781, was instructed to make a crash landing at AAF Station 127, because the landing gear could not be lowered. After every effort to lower gear had failed the pilot crash landed successfully with no injury to personnel.

For recommendation refer to attached teletype.

RECEIVED
FEB 4 1944
Winston-Salem, N. C.

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Signature Cecil E. West
CECIL E. WEST, Major, Air Corps,
Joseph A. Vigo
JOSEPH A. VIGO, Captain, Air Corps.
Adolph Kurke
ADOLPH KURKE, Captain, Air Corps,

Date 28 December 1943

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FIVE HUNDRED FORTY SIXTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
AAF STATION NO. 106

27 December 1943.

SUBJECT: Emergency Landing in A/C B-17G 42-237781.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. Took off at 1355, December 26, 1943, in B-17G 42-237781 for a routine practice flight. Coming in for formation landing, found right landing gear would not extend when landing gear switch was in down position. Switch was returned to neutral position and gear was attempted to be lowered manually. This was unsuccessful. Emergency crank shaft would revolve without lowering gear.

2. Upon finding this true, reported to tower, following the instructions they gave and made emergency landing at Little Staughton at 1755.

George W. Stier
GEORGE W. STIER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
1st Pilot.

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AAF STATION NO 127
Office of the Flying Control Officer
APO 635, U.S. Army

26 December 1943

SUBJECT: Crash Landing of B-17G #237781.

TO : Commanding Officer AAF 127, APO 635, U.S. Army.
Attention: Aircraft Classification Committee

1. At 1752 hours, this date, B-17G #237781, pilot Lt. Meier, belly landed.

2. The aircraft belonged to 384 Bombardment Group, 546 Bombardment Squadron, based at Grafton Underwood.

3. The pilot followed all instructions given to him by the Control Tower and made a good landing after darkness had set in.

Arnold M. Gotthilf
ARNOLD M. GOTTHILF
1st Lt., Air Corps
Senior Flying Control Officer

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Accident No.

Pilot's Name Stier

86 Nature Group Landing

34 Specific Nature Wheels up

28 Underlying Nature Main landing gear retraction mechanism

100% 22 Cause Group Aircraft

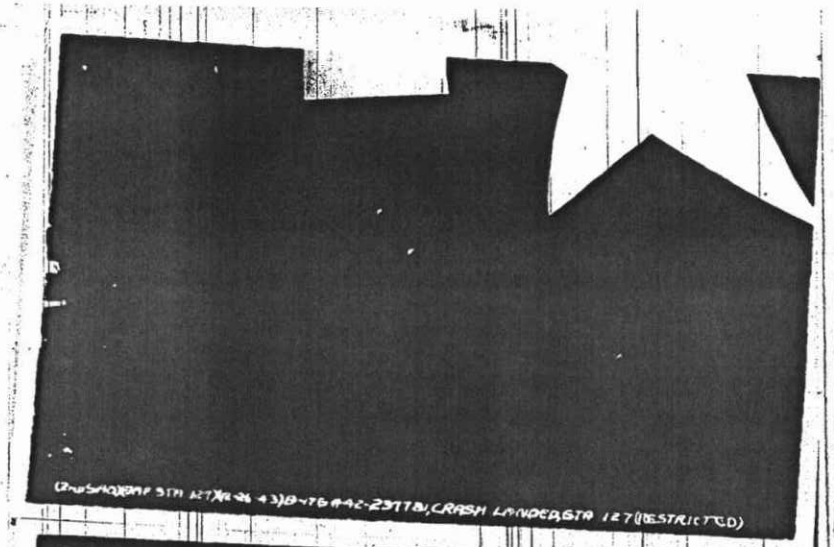
67 Specific Cause Main landing gear

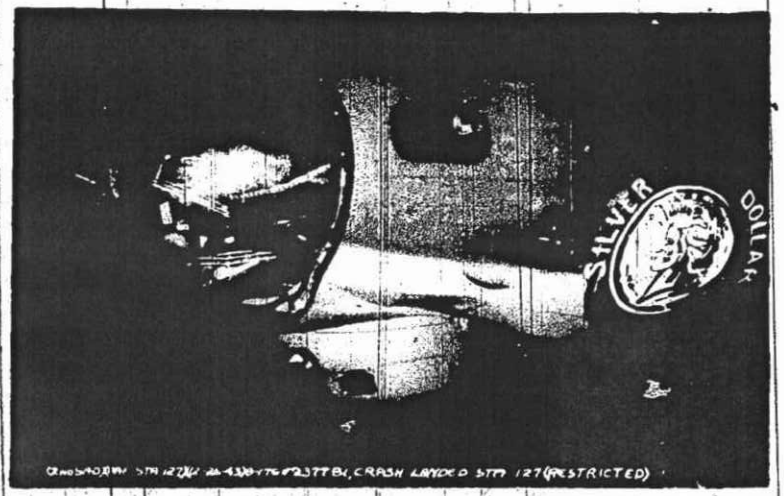
84 Underlying Cause Undetermined

Cause Group

Specific Cause

Underlying Cause




SILVER
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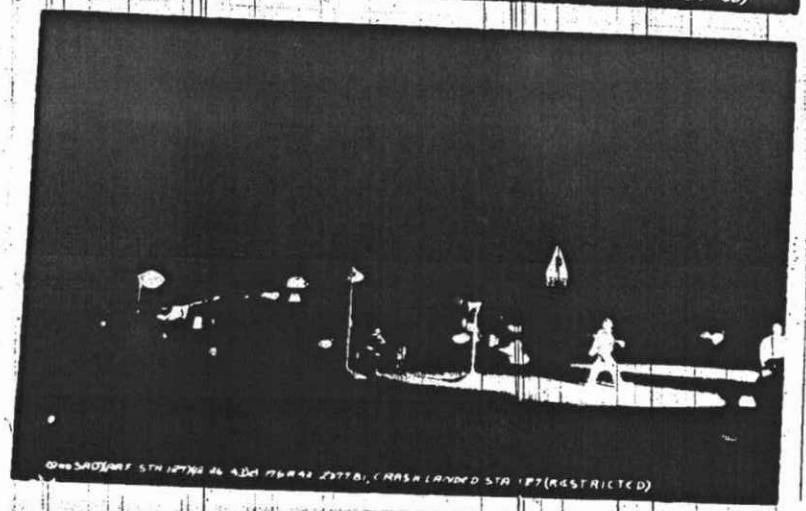

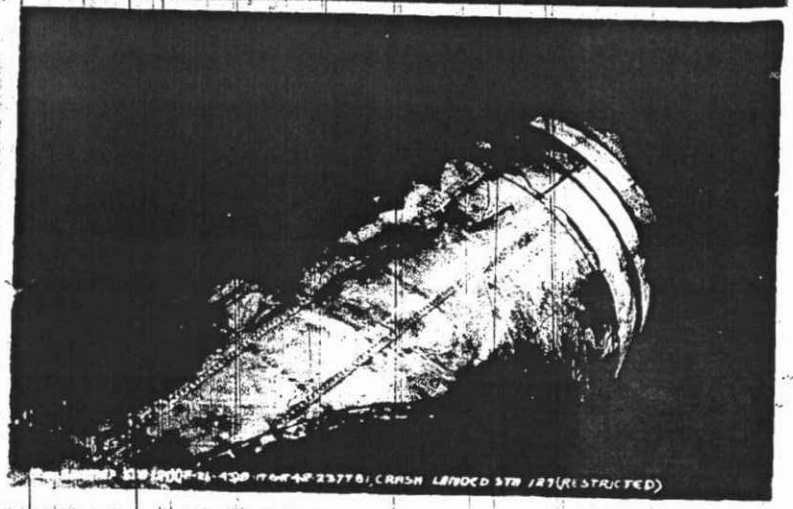

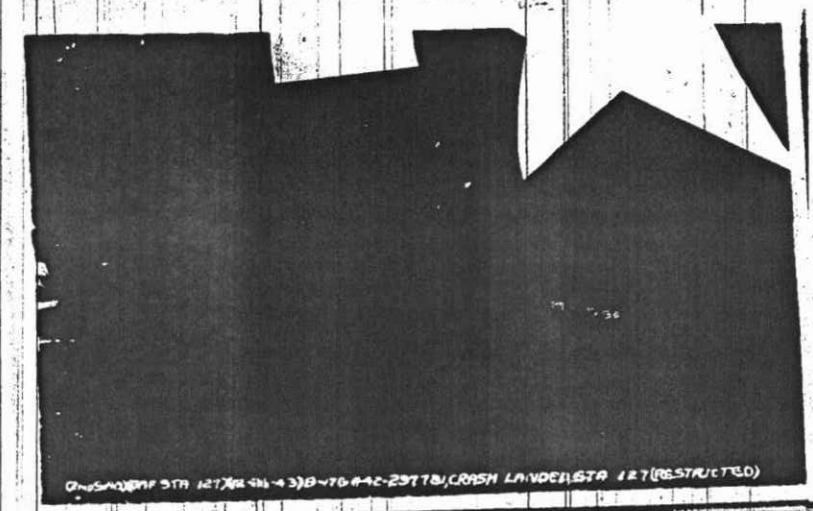

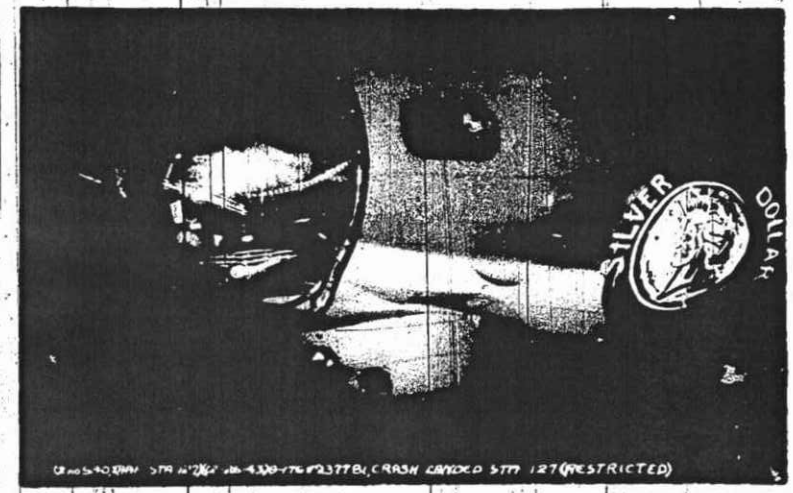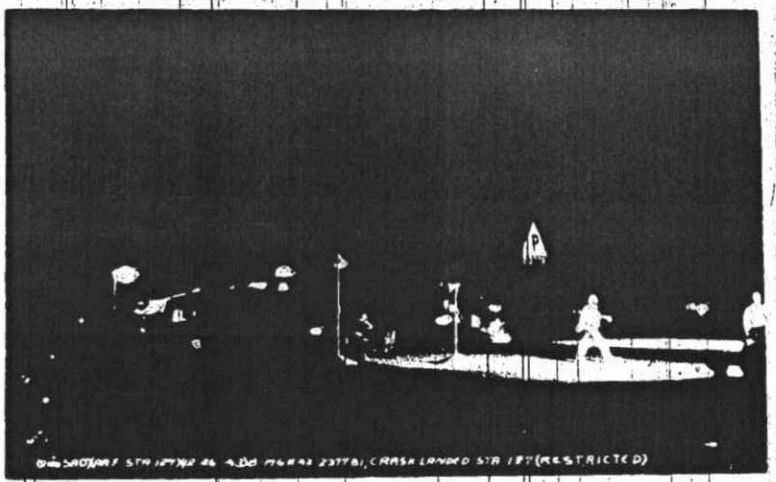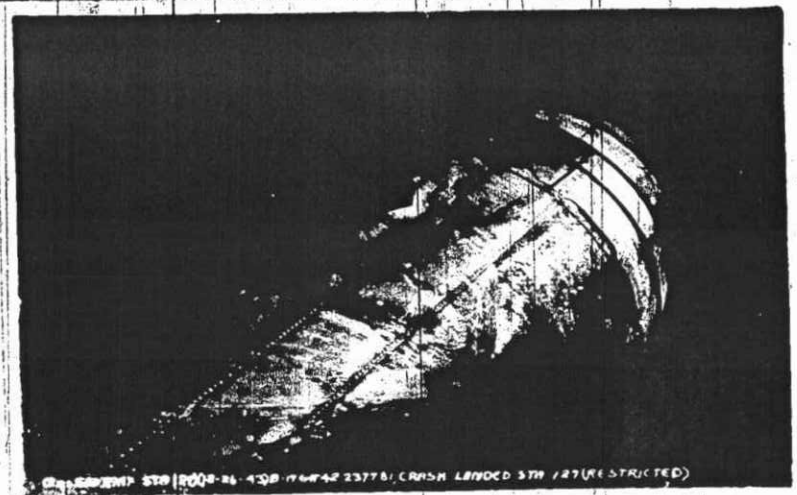
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