

RESTRICTED

Accident No. 050

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

44-5-1-505

(1) Place AAF Station NO. 106 (3) Date 1 May, 1944 (5) Time 1635
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17-G (6) A. F. No. 42-107074 (8) Station 106
Organisation: (7) 8th Air Force (9) 38th Bomb (H) (10) 546 Bomb (H) (11) 2354
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DOVT	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
P	Miller, James G. II	P	0-680479	1st Lt.	01	AC	8th AF	None	None
CP	Thoms, Edward P.	P	0-693486	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th AF	None	None
RO	Barnes, Francis E.	RO	39556825	S/Sgt.	38 20	AC	8th AF	None	None
E	McDonald, Edward W.	E	121	S/Sgt.	38 20	AC	8th AF	None	None



PILOT INVOLVED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Miller, James G. II (21) 0-680479 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 01 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personal class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th Air Force (26) 38th Bomb (H) (27) 546 Bomb (H) (28) 106
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) Pilot (30) 24/5/43 (31) Pilot (32) 24/5/43 (33) 1/4/44
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station) (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(34) This type 175:55 (35) Instrument time last 6 months 02:10
(36) This model 171:20 (36) Instrument time last 30 days 00:00
(37) Last 90 days 167:00 (37) Night time last 6 months 07:25
(38) Total 585:15 (38) Night time last 30 days 03:45

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(40) Aircraft <u>5 Salvaged Class E-1</u>	(41) supercharger, right wing tip and outer pannel, left
(41) Engine(s) <u>1</u>	(42) landing gear twisted, right flap assembly, right aileron
(42) Propeller(s) <u>1</u>	(43) right landing gear drag link, # 2 & 3 nacelle buckled,

(44) Weather at the time of accident 6/10 Low Clouds at 2,500 feet, seven (7) miles visibility, Wind West eleven (11) miles per hour.

(45) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No.
(46) Cleared from Station 106 (47) To Local (48) Kind of clearance Contact

(49) Pilot's mission Training

(50) Nature of accident Landing Accident

(51) Cause of accident Pilot touched down fifteen (15) feet from landing end of runway, hit sharp edge of perimeter track, breaking drag link on right landing gear.

(52) Has Form 54 Been Submitted? No.

13-82

PTW

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

It is the opinion of this board, the accident is eighty (80) percent pilot error and twenty (20) percent due to inadequate dirt approach to West end of East West runway.

The pilot (Lieutenant Miller) was demonstrating low approach procedure to copilot (Lieutenant Thoma) when the aircraft touched down fifteen (15) feet from landing end of East West runway. The right and left wheel struck sharp edge of perimeter track, breaking drag link on right landing gear. Lieutenant Miller was sitting in copilot's seat at the time of this landing, and upon striking edge of perimeter track noticed immediately, the right landing gear had been damaged. Lieutenant Miller brought aircraft back to runway where he roller for six hundred (600) yards before right landing gear collapsed, throwing aircraft to right of runway in a one hundred and eighty (180) degree turn.

Lieutenant Miller misjudged end of runway in attempting to land, but had there been a smoother surface leading up to the perimeter track this accident would not have occurred.

Signature

Thomas P. Beckett
(Investigating Officer)

Thomas P. Beckett, Lt. Col., Air Corps

Robert E. Thacker
Robert E. Thacker, Major, Air Corps

Charles W. Bishop
Charles W. Bishop, 1st Lt., Air Corps

Date 6 May, 1944

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

2 May 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

TO : Group Operations, 384th Bomb Gp (H), AAF Station 106.

On May, 1, 1944 at 16:35 hours, I, James G. Miller II, O-680479, 1st Lt. A.C., 546th Bomb Sq., 384th Bomb Gp., made landing in aircraft 07074. This aircraft is assigned to the 546th Bomb Sq. At the time I had been demonstrating a low approach landing to Lt. E. P. Thoms who had been making pilot transition landings and on this landing the ship touched down approximately six feet from the end of the landing strip. In doing so the landing gear was jarred against the end of the runway, as the dirt approach is not level with this landing strip where they join. The jar received here sheared a part of the right landing strut, and this became noticeable to me as soon as I looked out. I was able to realize the immediate failure of the strut, and my decision was to cut the power and bring the ship back to the runway in a crash landing.

This was accomplished with no injury to any man aboard the ship. No fire developed and field crash landing equipment arrived on the scene promptly. No excuse is offered for the accident.

James G. Miller II
JAMES G. MILLER, II,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

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HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION NO. 106
Office of the Flying Control Officer

R-D-1

May 2, 1944.

SUBJECT: Crash Landing of B-17 # 7074.

TO 1 COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF Station No. 106.

1. At 1612 hours aircraft # 7074 (Lt. Miller) took off on a local flight to do touch landings. He flew for about thirty minutes, making seven or eight successful landings.

2. At 1645 hours aircraft # 7074 came in for another touch landing. He apparently touched down about ten feet outside the perimeter track and rolled about six hundred yards down the runway, before his right landing gear collapsed. He skidded on down the runway and ground looped to the right coming to rest on the grass to the right and clear of the runway.

3. Upon seeing the crash from the tower, I immediately dispatched the duty crash tender and ambulance to the aircraft. Thereupon I notified all concerned.

Charles W. Overton
CHARLES W. OVERTON,
2nd Lt., A. C.
Duty F.C.O.

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