

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

45-5-8-511

56

(1) Place AAF STA 595 (2) Date 8-5-45 (3) Time 1058
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 43-38757 (6) Station AAF STA 106
Organization: (7) 8th AF (8) 384th (9) 547th
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DUTY	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	Davidson, Wallace S.	P	0-835615	2nd Lt	18	AUS	8th AF	None	None
CP	Rails, Edward S.	P	7-7509	F/O	18	AUS	8th AF	None	None
N	Lindsey, James	N	15113653	Sgt	38	AUS	8th AF	None	None
N	Staninger, Robert L.	N	15330325	Sgt	38	AUS	8th AF	None	None
RO	Kajkd, Frank A.	RO	31040491	T/Sgt	38	AUS	8th AF	None	None
E	Blandership, Joseph J.	E	15364076	Sgt	38	AUS	8th AF	None	None

REPORT OF PILOT'S OBSERVATIONS

(20) Davidson Wallace S (21) 0-835615 (22) 2nd Lt (23) 18 (24) AUS
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th AF (26) 384th BH 547th (28) 106
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 8th AF (30) 384th (31) 547th (32) 106
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) P (34) 4-8-45 Present rating (35) P (36) 4-8-45 Instrument rating (37) 16-4-45
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type Approx 300 (39) Instrument time last 6 months 15 hrs
(39) This model 290 (40) Instrument time last 30 days None
(40) Last 90 days 100 (41) Night time last 6 months 50 hrs
(41) Total 580 (42) Night time last 30 days None

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

1	DAMAGE	2	3	4	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	0	3	3	1	Left L.G., Left inner and outer wing panels.
(47) Engine(s)	0	3	0	3	
(48) Propeller(s)	W	4	W	4	

(50) Weather at the time of accident Contact

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No

(52) Cleared from 106 (53) To 375 (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Non-Operational

(56) Nature of accident Landing accident.

(57) Cause of accident Failure of left landing gear drag strut bolt.

(58) Form No. 54 not submitted.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Pilot's Statement.

Left gear folded upon landing and airspeed upon landing was between 100 to 95 MPH when ship stalled. Ship didn't seem to be high and I was prepared to set it down. Upon contacting the ground the gear slowly gave way. Air plane proceeded to skid to a stop after sliding about a quarterway down the runway. Gear was checked in the down position before making the landing.

s/t/ WALLACE S. DAVIDSON.
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Investigation has revealed that pilot made a close turn on to final approach and ship was still in approx 20 degree bank at the point of impact with the runway. The entire weight of the aircraft was put on the left wheel and strut when touch down was made and as the landing appeared to be rather hard, it is believed that is what caused the drag strut to break. Aircraft was in a slight skid to left at the point of touch down further accentuating the load placed on the left landing gear assembly. After touch down with both wheels, ship bounced on rough runway and when next touched down, was slightly sideways, nose pointing to the left of line of flight. Ship continued to veer to left finally coming to a stop with the left gear folded up in the engine nacelle and the right gear having taken the entire load of the A/C from right. Damage was confined to the left outer wing, left wing and Nos 1 and 2 propellers and Nos 1 and 2 engines.

100 % Pilot error.

Due to faulty technique in making too close an approach and pattern with this particular type of A/C.

Aircraft Accident Committee:

M. J. Brockmann
M. J. BROCKMANN.
Capt., Air Corps,
President (Pilot)

H. S. Geyer
H. S. GEYER.
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Member (Engineering Officer)

Richard H. McLaughlin
RICHARD H. McLAUGHLIN.
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Member (Service Pilot)

Date _____

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E-6.

FLYING CONTROL SECTION
AAF STATION 375, APO 357
U. S. ARMY

May 10, 1945.

I was on duty at the caravan the 8th of May at 1059 hours when B-17 #43-38757 landed. On final approach this A/C was in a bank to the left to line up with runway 10 and when the A/C touched down, his left wheel was the only one supporting the weight of the A/C, causing this wheel to collapse.

Cull M. Bivens
SGT. CULL M. BIVENS
ASN 34437016
Airfield Controller

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FLYING CONTROL
AAF STATION 375
APO 557, U. S. ARMY

E-S-7

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident.

TO : Commanding Officer, AAF Station 595, APO 636, U. S. Army.

1. At 1059 hours 8 May 1945 2nd Lt. Davidson of the 547th Bomb Squadron, 384th Bomb Group in B-17 No. 43,38757 made a normal peel off from a flight of B-17's to land. He made a very close pattern and was pretty high on final approach. He made an effort to slip the aircraft to lose altitude and when he hit the runway he hit hard on the left wheel only. The aircraft first touched down about 300-400 yds. from the perimeter track. No one was injured.

2. Runway 10, which is pierced plank surface 2000 yds. long, was in use.

3. Weather conditions at the time of the accident:

Clouds- 3/10 at 3000 ft. and 6/10 at 1000 ft.
Vsb- 3 miles in haze
Wind- ESE 16 miles per hour.



Walter G. Seeley
WALTER G. SEELEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Flying Control Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
1ST STRATEGIC AIR DEPOT
AAF STA 595 - APO 636 U.S. ARMY

G-B-4

360-33

18 May 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, VIII Air Force Service Command, AAF Sta 506, APO 636, U.S. Army.

Pursuant to provisions of US Strategic Air Forces in Europe Regulation 62-1, 20 February 1945 and Memorandum 60-1, Hq., Eighth Air Force, transmitted herewith report covering accident which occurred at this station, 8 May 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

2596



H. B. Tager
H. B. TAGER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 - AAF Form 14 (In Copy)
- Incl 2 - Ltr fr Flying Command (In Copy)
- Incl 3 - Statement of Sgt Meyers (In Copy)

cc: CO, AAF Sta 106, APO 557.

360-33

1st Ind.

H-A-7

HQ, VIII AIR FORCE SERVICE COMMAND, AAF STA 506, APO 636, US ARMY.

20 MAY 1945

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634, U.S. Army.

3 Incls: n/c

MAY 21 1945

A.G.B.
A.G.B.



RECEIVED
HQ. 8th AIR FORCE

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