

521

Accident No. 44-5-23-521

Date 7-9-44

Checked by [Signature]

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

1225:9-43

RESTRICTED

ACCIDENT No. 44-5-23.3-21

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place AAF STATION 130 (2) Date 23 May 1944 (3) Time 12:56
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 42-107015 (6) Station AAF Station 130
Organization: (7) 8th B.C. 8th A.F. (8) 457th B.G. (H) (9) 750th B.S. (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	PROCOPIO, AMERICO	P	0-747483	1st Lt.	0113	A.C.	8th	None	None
CP	DRISCOLL, ROBERT	CP	0-753988	2nd Lt.	0113	A.C.	8th	None	None
N	WEINBERG, BERNARD B.	N	0-692101	2nd Lt.	0113	A.C.	8th	None	None
E	PALIKA, EDWARD P.	E	0-752693	2nd Lt.	0113	A.C.	8th	None	None
E	Clements, John T.	E	11111103	T/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None
LWG	Angell, E. L.	LWG	18199992	S/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None
RO	Babel, Russel R.	RO	16147802	T/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None
BTG	Dubej, Thaddus F.	BTG	13134466	S/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None
RWF	Norman, James R.	RWF	36441501	S/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None
TG	Megin, Walter W.	TG	11103504	S/Sgt	2033	A.C.	8th	None	None

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) PROCOPIO AMERICO (21) 0-747483 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 18 (24) A.C.
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th B.C. 8th A.F. (26) 457th (27) 750th (28) AAF 130
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 8th B.C. 8th A.F. (30) 457th (31) 750th (32) AAF 130
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) P (34) 6-22-43 Present rating (35) P (36) 6-22-43 Instrument rating (37) 1-1-43
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type B-17 429:00 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 15:00
(39) This model B-17G 2:30:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days 3:30
(40) Last 90 days 192:10 (44) Night time last 6 months 11:00
(41) Total 429:00 (45) Night time last 30 days None

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	Right outer wing panel & tip, Right flap, Right aileron
(47) Engine(s)	#3, #4 change per T.O. 02-1-15, #1 Supercharger Damaged
(48) Propeller(s)	Props bent and changed

(50) Weather at the time of accident Visibility 3 miles, 1/10 cloud coverage at 4000 feet.
Wind west at 4 M.P.H.

(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 Operational

(55) Pilot's mission Combat, to join Group formation.

(56) Nature of accident Landing accident, right landing gear would not extend, electrically or manually. Plane landed with one main gear down and ground looped.

(57) Cause of accident Failure of right landing gear retraction motor would not allow the right main gear to be extended. One wheel landing was made.

(58) AAF Form 54 has been submitted.

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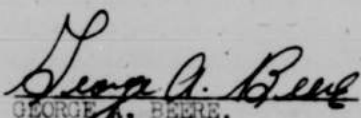
DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

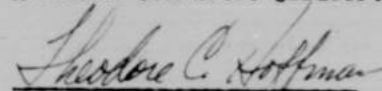
(Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition)

Investigator for the accident committee contributes the accident to a broken shaft in the right landing gear motor. The gear could not be lowered either electrically or mechanically.

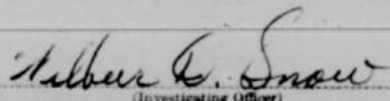
Recommend the engineer to crank down landing gear screw three turns in order to break the gear loose from the bumper; this will prevent binding against the packing when the electric gear motor is set into operation.

No pilot error -100% mechanical error.


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


THEODORE C. HOFFMAN,
Major, Air Corps,
Accident Committee Officer.

Signature


(Investigating Officer)
WILBUR D. SNOW,

Capt, Air Corps,

A/C Accident Officer.

Date 29 May 1944.

May 28, 1944

Signed Statement by Lt. Americo Procopio

After receiving landing instructions from the tower, the plane commander called for wheels down. A minute later the Engineer who had gone back to break the wheels loose with the hand crank reported that the right landing gear failed to lower and that the hand crank failed to take hold either in the down or up position indicating that something was broken between crank and gear lowering mechanism. The Plane Commander then had the gear switched placed in down position and only the left landing gear and the tail gear extended to its full down and lock position. The Engineer checked these two gears for down and lock position with crank and at same time attempted once more to crank right gear down only to meet with same results as before. The plane commander then tried to shake the gear down but did not succeed. After informing the tower of the trouble, the Plane Commander himself attempted to use hand crank. The crank only spun in both directions with no indication of taking hold. The shaft leading from crank insert position through wing to gear was checked via opening in bulkhead four for operation and all indications pointed to a broken retracting screw shear pin in gear let down mechanism.

Americo Procopio
AMERICO PROCOPIO
1st Lt., Air Corps
Pilot

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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (E-AF-5)
Office of the Flying Control Officer
AAF Station 130
U. S. Army

29 May 1944

SUBJECT: One Wheel Landing of B-17 Number 42-107015.

TO : Group Operations Officer, 457th Bombardment Group, AAF Station 130.

1. At 0620 on 23 May, 1944, 015 called the Control Tower stating he could not get right wheel down.

2. The coordinates 53° 20' N; 02° 20' E were secured from First Division Flying Control and 015 was sent out to that point to jettison his bombs.

3. Upon return he circled the field until fuel was partially consumed. The aircraft then landed on runway 34 with his right wheel up and came to rest on the grass to the right of the runway, after a run of 700 - 800 yards from point of touchdown.

Harry E. Bender

HARRY E. BENDER,
2nd Lt, S.C.,
Duty Flying Control Officer.

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15-3-457(23/5/44) - 15 - CRASH LANDING - LT. PROCOPIO - PILOT



15-4-457(23/5/44) - 15 - CRASH LANDING - LT. PROCOPIO - PILOT



15-5-457(23/5/44) - 15 - CRASH LANDING - LT. PROCOPIO - PILOT

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