

Accident No. 44-3-2-522

Date

Checked by TWA

4-11-44

Analyzed by [Signature]

4-12-44

Copied for Wright  
Field by [Signature]

Notes  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Accident No.

Pilot's Name

0 Nature Group Landing  
34 Specific Nature Wheels up  
28 Underlying Nature Main landing gear  
retracting mechanism  
100% 22 Cause Group Aircraft  
67 Specific Cause Main landing gear  
Underlying Cause Indetermined  
84

Cause Group

Specific Cause

Underlying Cause



# CONFIDENTIAL

## DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Plane number 42-51147 piloted by 1st. Lt. J.A. Harrison returned from an operational mission over Germany. Upon arriving to this station the pilot was unable to lower the landing gear either electrically or manually. After he had tried all known means to get the gear down, he was directed by the Group Commander to belly land. The pilot approached the field for landing from east to west and made a belly landing on the grass parallel to runway 2B.

There was no injury sustained by any personnel. The nose turret, ball turret, belly of the plane and all four props were damaged. There was sudden stoppage to all four engines.

(40) An AAF Form 54 was forwarded on 12 March, 1944

J. B. Kidd  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
President

Everette Blakely  
Major, Air Corps,  
Member

### Exhibits Included:

- A- Flying Control Officer's Statement
- B- Convening Authority

[Signature]  
Lt. Col., Air Corps  
Recorder

Signature .....  
(Investigating Officer)

Date .....

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FLYING CONTROL SECTION: STATION 139  
APO 634

4 March 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident of March 2, 1944 Concerning one B-17 of Station 139.

TO : Chairman, Aircraft Accident Committee, Station 139, APO 634.

1. During the return of our operational aircraft from a mission March 2, 1944. Aircraft No. 347-K called at 1905 hours on VHF saying he could not lower his right landing gear undercarriage down. He was then given instructions by the Group Engineering Officer and by the Commanding Officer to lower it manually. When all instructions failed, he was then sent to Honnington to crash-land. Informed Honnington who replied they could not take him since they had no flare path; although they said they would try to lay one out but would take sometime. After conferring with the Commanding Officer, it was decided to have the aircraft return to our field to crash land, which it did at 20000 hours. None of the personnel were injured on the crash landing and no property damage was caused by the aircraft.

*Vincent R. Biondino*  
VINCENT R. BIONDINO,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Sr Flying Control  
Officer.

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0-1-1

AAF STATION NO. 130  
APO 634

14 March 44

Special Orders )  
Number .. 72 )

1. Par 16, SO 130, this Sq, 25 Nov 43, is rescinded.

2. In accordance with Par 1, Part 8, AAF Regulation No. 83-16, as modified by Section 3, VIII AF Hqs 80p2, the following named officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

LT COL JOHN B. KISS	0350025	Sq Det 100th
LT COL OLLEN (HMI) TURNER	0350007	341st Bomb Sq
CAPT HERBERT A. KIRKELING	0350051	418th Bomb Sq
1ST LT ALBERT H. MINKELSON	0350410	340th Bomb Sq
MAJ HERBERT E. BLAKELY	0442330	418th Bomb Sq

By order of Colonel HANDING:

HERAC L. VARIAN, Jr.,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Station Adjutant.

OFFICIAL: HERAC L. VARIAN, Jr.,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Station Adjutant.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

*John P. Thomas*  
JOHN P. THOMAS  
Captain, Air Corps  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Div.

JOHN B. KISS,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer

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1st Wrapper Ind.

B-G-12

Hq. Eighth Air Force, APO 634, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

28 1044

TO: Chief, Flying Safety, AAF, Winston Salem 1, N.C.

1. Transmitted herewith WDAAF Forms No. 14 and allied papers on the following aircraft accidents:

- a. 1st Lt. John A. Harrison, B-17G number 42-31347.
- b. 2nd Lt. James R. Liddle, B-17G number 42-39797.
- c. F/O Charles H. Schreiber, P-47C number 41-6356.
- d. 2nd Lt. Samuel H. Bowman III, B-24H number 42-7507.
- e. 1st Lt. Robert E. Lamb, B-24J number 42-100341.
- f. 1st Lt. Edward J. Maslow, Mosquito number N 16.
- g. 2nd Lt. George C. Maitland, P-47C number 41-6229.
- h. 1st Lt. Glenn T. Berge, P-47D number 42-8604.
- i. 1st Lt. Bernard M. Davey, B-17G number 42-39878.
- j. 1st Lt. William H. Nemberger, P-51B number 43-6654.

2. Concur.

For the Commanding General:

*William H. Nemberger*

WILLIAM H. NEMBERGER  
Major, AAF  
1st Adjutant General

10 Incls:  
As above.

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