

Accident No. 15-11-57

Date 1-11-57

Checked by [Signature]

Analyzed by _____

Copied for Wright

Field by _____

Notes _____

122519-43

CONFIDENTIAL

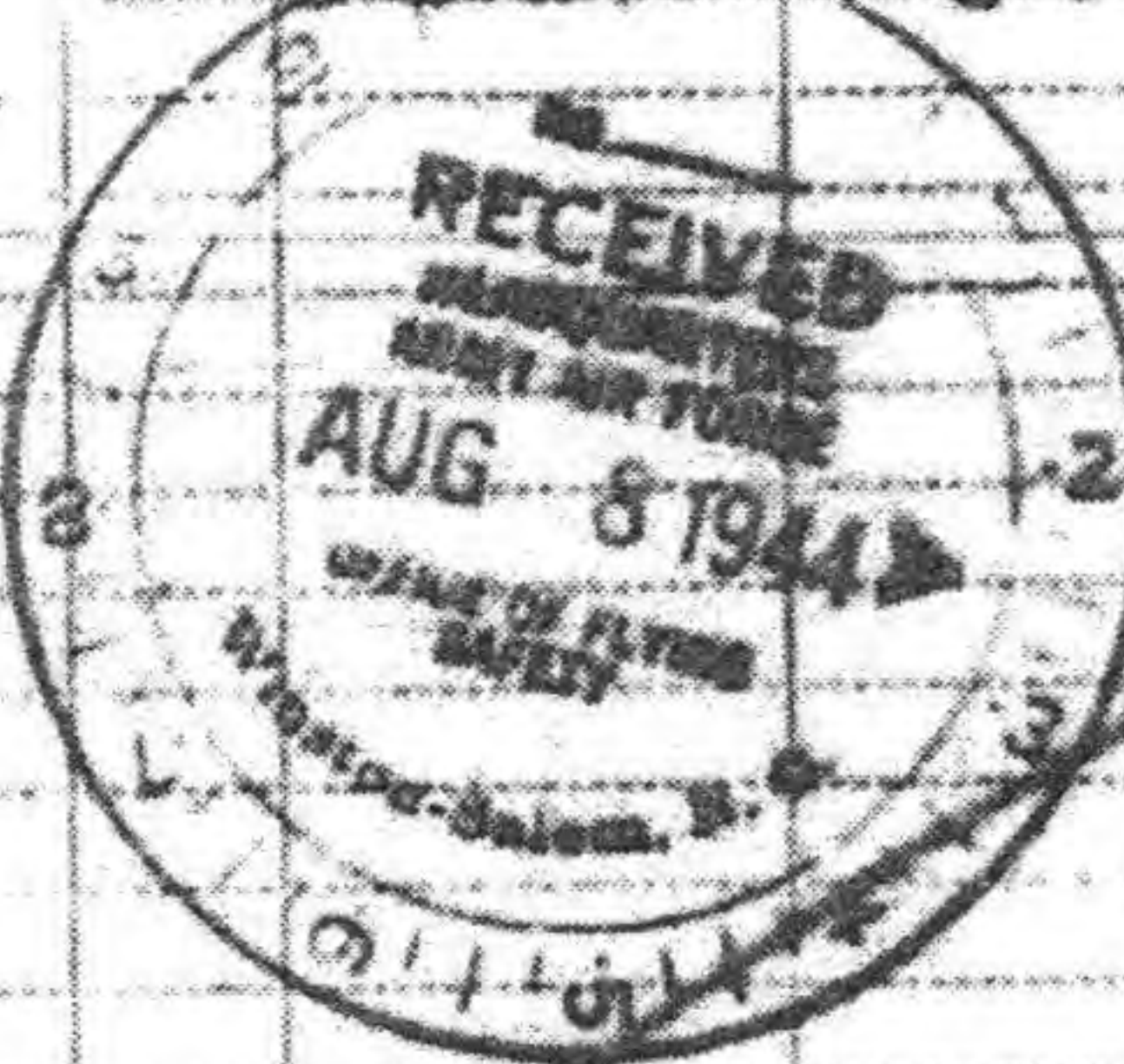
WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Accident No. **48**

(1) Place **AAF Station 139** (2) Date **11 July 1944** Time **1657**
Aircraft (4) Type and model **B-17G** (5) A. F. No. **42-10700** (6) Station **AAF 139**
Organization: (7) **8th AF** (8) **100th** **351st**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

ICVT (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL NO. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	REASON (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
BTG	PARISH, HOMER L.	AG	38408806	Sgt.	38	A.C.	8th AF	killed	NO



CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED

TO **RESTRICTED**
BY AUTHORITY OF **CG AAF**
BY **FCA** DATE **2-28-46**

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) **Parish, Homer L.** (21) **38408806** (22) **Sgt.** (23) **38** (24) **AC**
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Brig.)
Assigned (25) **8th AF** (26) **100th BH** (27) **351 BH** (28) **AAF# 139**
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) (30) (31) (32)
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) (34) Present rating (35) (36) Instrument rating (37)
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

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

(38) This type **Not applicable** (39) Instrument time last 6 months **not applicable**
(39) This model **Not applicable** (40) Instrument time last 30 days **not applicable**
(40) Last 90 days **Not applicable** (41) Night time last 6 months **not applicable**
(41) Total **Not applicable** (42) Night time last 30 days **not applicable**

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(43) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	Tail wheel, left landing gear shot up.
(47) Engine(s)	Engine shot up.
(48) Propeller(s)	#2 and #3 propellers shot up.

(50) Weather at the time of accident **visibility four miles, ceiling 1,500', 9/10 coverage, H/E**
surface wind 10 MPH

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident **No. Aircraft parked on hardstanding**
(52) Cleared from **139** (53) To **139** (54) Kind of clearance **Operational**

(55) Pilot's mission **An operational mission had been completed. The aircraft was empty and unoccupied at the time of the accident.**

(56) Nature of accident **Runaway Ball Turret Guns.**

(57) Cause of accident **Failure on the part of the Ball Turret Gunner to unload the guns before cleaning the same.**

(58) No AAF Form 54 will be submitted.

RESTRICTED

Incl #2

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

1. Aircraft #42-107007 had returned from an operational mission on 11 July 1944. The aircraft was parked on its hardstanding off the perimeter track near the Control Tower. The aircraft was unoccupied at the time. The Ball Turret Gunner, Sergeant HOMER L. PARISH, 38406806 was cleaning his guns when the same "ran away", firing 207 rounds. As a result, the following aircraft of this station, in addition to the above aircraft, were damaged: B-17Gs 42-39867, 42-102416 and 42-31256. Three of the aircraft are repairable. The latter named aircraft will be salvaged, due to a fire started in the wing section by an incendiary round. The Ball Turret Gunner was killed.

John B. Kidd

JOHN B. KIDD,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President.

Summer H. Reider

SUMMER H. REIDER,
Major, Air Corps,
Member.

Maurice F. Youngs

MAURICE F. YOUNGS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Member.

EXHIBITS:

- "A"- Photographs
- "B"- Armament Officer's Statement
- "C"- Convening Authority
- "D"- Flying Control Officer's Statement

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

HEADQUARTERS 100TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Armament Officer
APO 559

R-A-1

13 July, 1944.

SUBJECT: Accidental Runaway Machine Gun Cal.50 M-2 Browning
In Ball Turret.

TO : Commanding Officer, 100th Bombardment Group (H) AAF,
APO 559.

1. This letter concerning the runaway right gun in the ball turret of aircraft number 42-107007 after the aircraft was parked in dispersal area on 11 July, 1944, is submitted as requested.
2. The ball turret gunner of said aircraft disengaged the gear train on the ball turret. The turret was revolved to a position where the guns were accessible for removing. Investigation reveals that both guns were charged three or four times before the disassembly was started. However, it is assumed that the right gun cover group was never realised to halt the ammunition from feeding into the gun while it was being charged for clearing.
3. It is thought that the gunner assumed the gun to be clear of ammunition as he charged the three or four times. Instead, it was feeding live rounds of ammunition into the chamber. We have arrived at this conclusion because the cover group was not raised and the ammunition had not been halted from feeding into the gun while the gun was being charged.
4. When an attempt was made to disassemble the gun, the back plate was moved up causing the G-11 solenoid lip to come against the trigger bar, which in turn pivoted down against the sear releasing firing pin. This action primed the live rounds of ammunition which were going into the chamber.
5. There were two hundred and seven (207) rounds fired. The gun did not stop firing until it had become over-heated. Due to the recoil of the gun, the disengaged turret revolved toward the gunner, consequently bringing him into the line of fire of the runaway gun and killing him instantly.

Russell A. Mitchell
RUSSELL A. MITCHELL
Captain, Air Corps,
Armament Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139
10 559

26 April 1945

Special Orders)
Number.....111)

1. Extracted. (21 28th Comp Sq Bu Sheffield.)
2. Cpl John E. Callahan, 1128307, 465th Sub-Depot (C1 1), is reld fr
Sq Dy with Sta Armament & reasg'd Sq Dy with Sta S-3.
3. S Sgt Jack E. Marshall, 14162377, 350th Bomb Sq, is red to the pr of
Private, for cause, off this date. (auth: AR 615-5.)
4. Pvt John C. Riffle, 15073051, 350th Bomb Sq, is promoted to the pr of
Sergeant (Temp), off this date. (auth: AR 615-5.)
5. CAPT GEORGE D. ALLEN, 0334210, 28th Sta Compl Sq, is aptd Gr and
Officers' Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT COL
(M1) MOORE, 0572741, reld.
6. 1ST LT JOHN R. OLSON, 0561727, 418th Bomb Sq, is aptd Consolidated
Mess Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice 1ST LT FRANKLIN S.
BEINERT, 0572013, reld.
7. 1ST LT FRANKLIN S. BEINERT, 0562017, 350th Bomb Sq, is aptd Station
Mess Officer.
8. Par 2, SO 72, this Hq co, aptg Aircraft Accident Committee, is
rescinded.
9. In accordance with Par 1, Part 6, AAF Regulation No. 62-14, as
modified by AAFD 1-3, 111 AF Memo 1-3, 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. RIDD	0138625	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT SUMNER H. REIDER	71203	349th Bomb Sq
CAPT MAURICE F. YOUNG	0412321	Hq Det 100th Gp
CAPT ALBERT F. MINIKALSEN	0704430	349th Bomb Sq
10. T Sgt Paul A. Verbec, Jr., 19019354, 350th Bomb Sq, TP on TD o/a 1 May
44, for app seven (7) days, exclusive of travel, from Sta 139 to Bournemouth
for the purpose of COCC. CTNS.

While at TD Sta 139 will be furnished with a per diem of \$2.00 per day
for food, as outlined in G-1 AF 1-3-44.

TONT TON FD 91-5 P 1-3-44 A 0410-24. (auth: Ltr Hq 8th AF, Subj:
and for Non Alms at Rest House, 22 Nov 43 and Ltr Hq BTOUSA 3 Nov 43.)

By order of LT COL VANCE,

MORACE L. VANCE, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

MORACE L. VANCE, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

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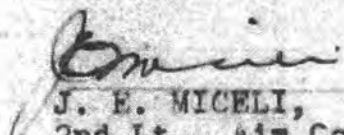
FLYING CONTROL SECTION: STATION 139
APO 559

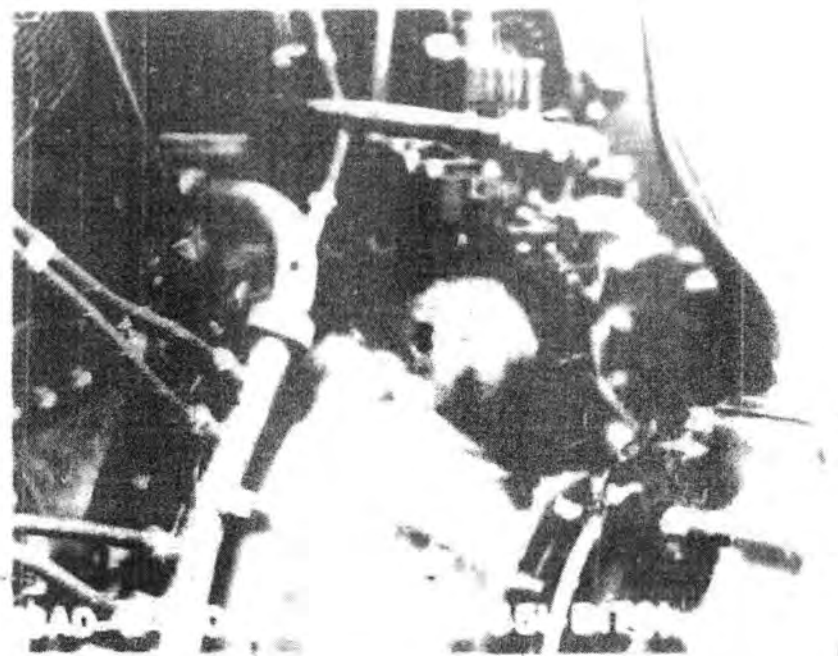
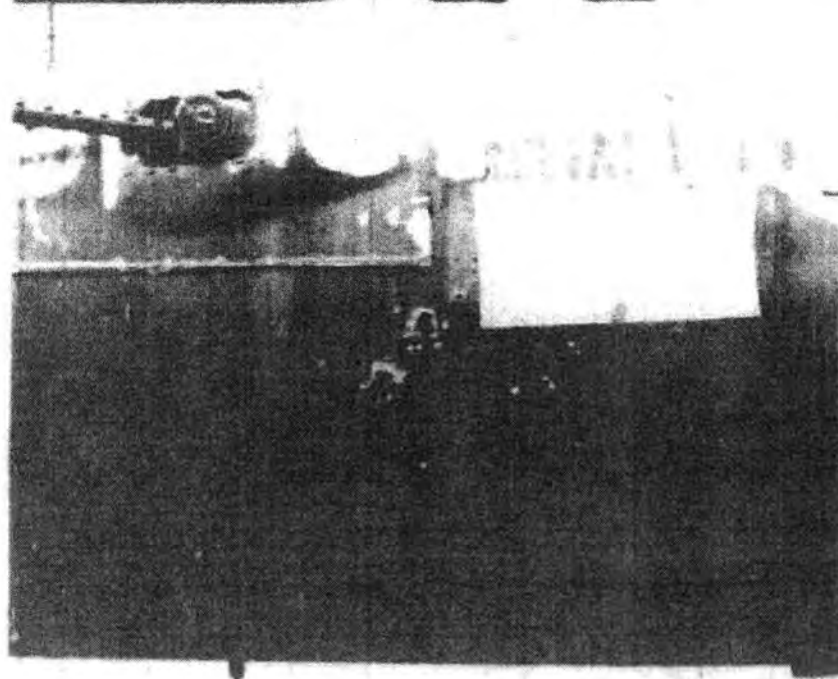
19 July 1944

SUBJECT: Accidental Discharge, Ball Turret Gun, A/C B-17G
No. 007-B

TO : Aircraft Accident Committee, AAF Sta. 139, APO 559.

1. Aircraft B-17G #007-B landed from operational mission of 11 July 1944 at 1635 hours and taxied to its assigned dispersal, hardstand No. 10.
2. Ball turret gun was accidentally discharged while gunner was disarming guns, at 1657 hours. Cause and means of accidental discharge not known. Run-away gun fired approximately 150 rounds killing gunner and striking a/c B-17 #256-S in same hardstand. A/C #256-S was set afire as a result.
3. Flying control fire equipment was dispatched to scene and A/C #256-S fire was extinguished within 45 minutes.


J. E. MICELI,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Duty Flying Control
Officer.



(1) Place Station 139 (2) Date 11 July 1944 (3) Time 1657
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17 G-25 (5) A. P. No. 42-39867 (6) Station 7 139
Organization: (7) 9th (8) 100th (9) 351st
(Group) (Group) (Group)
PERSONNEL 217

[illegible]

(30) _____ (Last name) _____ (First name) _____ (Middle initial) _____ (31) _____ (Serial number) _____ (32) _____ (Rank) _____ (33) _____ (Permanent address) _____ (34) _____ (Phone)

Assigned (35) _____ (Command and Air Force) _____ (36) _____ (Group) _____ (37) _____ (Squadron) _____ (38) _____ (Station)

Attached for flying (39) _____ (Command and Air Force) _____ (40) _____ (Group) _____ (41) _____ (Squadron) _____ (42) _____ (Station)

Original rating (43) _____ (Rating) _____ (44) _____ (Date) _____ Present rating (45) _____ (Rating) _____ (46) _____ (Date) _____ Instrument rating (47) _____ (Rating) _____ (48) _____ (Date)

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type	(43) Instrument time last 6 months
(39) This model	(44) Instrument time last 30 days
(40) Last 90 days	(45) Night time last 6 months
(41) Total	(46) Night time last 30 days

DAMAGE				(50) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	/			
(47) Engine(s)	/	/	/	
(48) Propeller(s)	/	/	/	

(10) Weather at the time of accident

(31) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident _____
 (32) Cleared from _____ (33) To _____ (34) Kind of clearance _____

(05) Pilot's mission: [REDACTED]

(66) Nature of accident

(B) Cause of accident

(1) Place Station 139 (2) Date 11 July 1944 (3) Time 1657
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 42-102416 (6) Station A-7 139
 Organization: (7) 21st (8) 100th (9) 351st
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)
 PERSONNEL 21A 2904

[illegible]

(20) _____ (Last name) (21) _____ (First name) (22) _____ (Middle initial) (23) _____ (Serial number) (24) _____ (Rank) (25) _____ (Promoted date) (26) _____ (Branch)

Assigned (27) _____ (Command and Air Force) (28) _____ (Group) (29) _____ (Signature) (30) _____ (Date)

Attached for flying (31) _____ (Command and Air Force) (32) _____ (Group) (33) _____ (Signature) (34) _____ (Date)

Original rating (35) _____ (Rating) (36) _____ (Date) Present rating (37) _____ (Rating) (38) _____ (Date) Instrument rating (39) _____ (Rating) (40) _____ (Date)

(38) This type.....	(39) Instrument time last 6 months.....
(39) This model.....	(40) Instrument time last 30 days.....
(40) Last 90 days.....	(41) Night time last 6 months.....
(41) Total.....	(42) Night time last 30 days.....

DAMAGE					(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(40) Aircraft	3				
(41) Engine(s)	1	1	1	1	
(42) Propeller(s)	1	1	1	1	

(40) Weather at the time of accident.

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

(52) Cleared from (53) To (54) Kind of clearance

(55) Pilot's mission

(14) Nature of accident:

(37) Cause of accident

(1) Place W. P. 4-110. 139 (2) Date 11 July 1944 (3) Time 1657
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17C (5) A. F. No. 42-31256 (6) Station 139
Organization: (7) 8th AF (8) 100th (9) 351st
(Command and 1st Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

[illegible]

(30) _____ (Last name) _____ (First name) _____ (Middle initial) _____ (Serial number) _____ (31) _____ (Rank) _____ (32) _____ (Personal class) _____ (33) _____ (Branch)

Assigned (34) _____ (Command and Air Force) _____ (35) _____ (Group) _____ (36) _____ (Squadron) _____ (37) _____ (Station)

Attached for flying (38) _____ (Command and Air Force) _____ (39) _____ (Group) _____ (40) _____ (Squadron) _____ (41) _____ (Station)

Original rating (42) _____ (Rating) _____ (43) _____ (Date) _____ Present rating (44) _____ (Rating) _____ (45) _____ (Date) _____ Instrument rating (46) _____ (Rating) _____ (47) _____ (Date)

(38) This type.....	(39) Instrument time last 6 months.....
(39) This model.....	(40) Instrument time last 30 days.....
(40) Last 90 days.....	(41) Night time last 6 months.....
(41) Total.....	(42) Night time last 30 days.....

DAMAGE				(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft				
(47) Engine(s)				
(48) Propeller(s)				

(50) **Weather at the time of accident**

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

(32) Cleared from (33) To (34) Kind of clearance

(56) Pilot's initiation

(56) Nature of accident _____

(57) Cause of accident _____

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