

Accident No. 45-5-16-531

Date 9-1-46

Checked by

MAD

Analyzed by

Copied for light

Field by

Notes

59117-45075

NAME OF PILOT

TYPE OF PLANE

ACCIDENT NUMBER

*Drottar, Joseph A.**B-17D**45-5-16-531*

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

CHARGED TO:

OUT

IN

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

8-28
04-001
Horsechick A/E
(1) Place: R-87 on Continent
Aircraft: (4) Type and model B-17G
Organization: (7) 8th AF, 3rd AD
(5) Date: 16 May, 1945
(6) Station: AAF Station 139
(8) Time: 0835
(9) 351st
(10) 100th
(11) 351st
(12) 100th
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(98) 100th
(99) 351st
(100) 100th

ENTRY	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	STATUS TO PERSONNEL	TYPE OF PARACHUTE
(1)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
P	Drottar, Joseph A.	P	0-835623	2nd Lt.	18	AAF	8th AF	None	No
CP	Raynor, Robert P.	CP	0-830935	2nd Lt.	18	AAF	8th AF	None	No
N	Stanford, Ransy B.	N	T-137808	P/O	17	AAF	8th AF	None	No
R	Sutton, Ray K.	R	39120184	Sgt.	38	AAF	8th AF	None	No
E	Laudenslager, John W.	E	35339515	Cpl.	38	AAF	8th AF	None	No

OR - PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT T.O. - 1
(30) Drottar, Joseph A. (71) 0-835623 (72) 2nd Lt. (73) 18 (74) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th AF 3rd AD (36) 100th (37) 351st (38) #139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (39) 8th AF 3rd AD (40) 100th (41) 351st (42) #139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) P (34) 4 Aug. '44 Present rating (35) P (36) 4 Aug. '44 Instrument rating (37) 25-1-45
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Station)

First Pilot Hours: 7 hrs. -
(at the time of this accident)
(38) This type B-17 241:05 (42A) Link Trainer time last 90 days 5:00
(39) This model B-17G 89:00 (42B) Link Trainer time last 30 days 2:00
(40) Last 90 days All Types 69:20 (43) Instrument time last 6 months 25:00
(41) Total All Types 157:05 (44) Instrument time last 30 days 12:45
(41B) Total Pilot Time 551:55 (45) Night time last 6 months 24:40
(46) Night time last 30 days 1:00

DAMAGE					(48) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	0	0	0	0	Left Wing Spring.
(47) Engine(s)	M	M	M	M	#1 and 2 engines damaged
(48) Propeller(s)	M	M	M	M	#1 and 2 props damaged

(50) Weather at the time of accident Clear and unlimited, no winds.
(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
(52) Cleared from #139 (53) To R-87 (54) Kind of clearance Operational
(55) Pilot's mission "Revival" Mission.

(56) Nature of accident Landing
(57) Cause of accident 100% Pilot error, Poor technique
(58) AAF form 54 will not be submitted.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

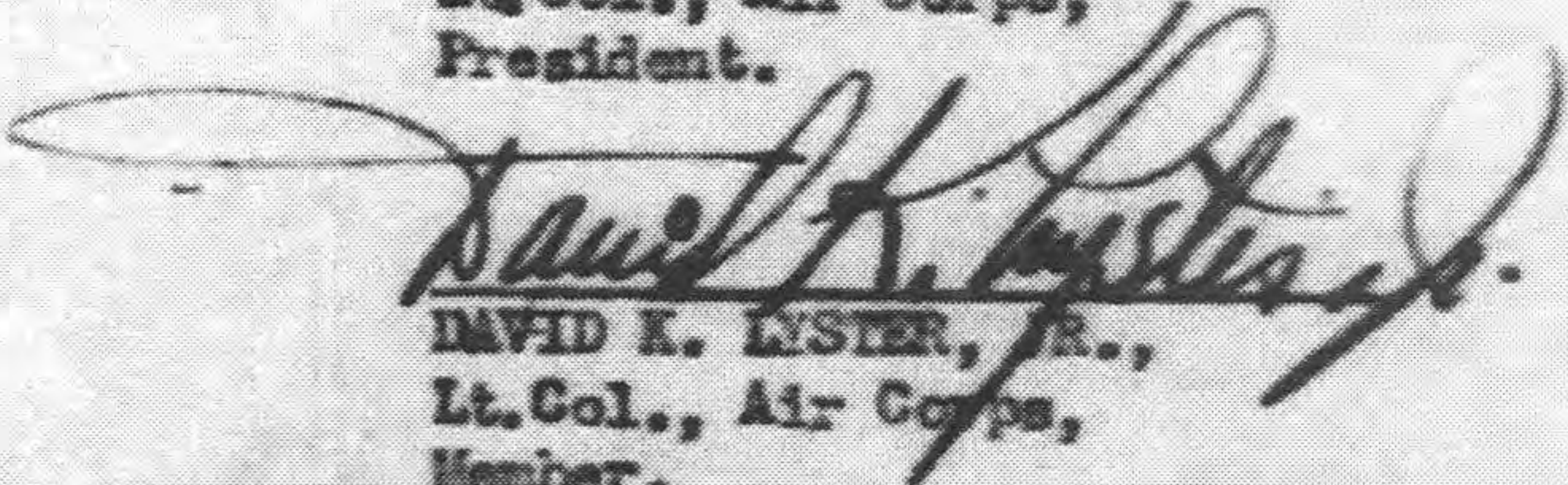
(Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition)

On 16 May 1945, 2nd Lt. Joseph A. Drotter was assigned as pilot of B-17G Aircraft #42-97126 on an operational "Revival" Mission. Upon landing at airdrome R-87 the left landing gear gave way causing damage to #1 and #2 propellers and to the left wing..

Investigation discloses that the pilot leveled off for his landing at about twenty-five feet and that the aircraft "dropped in" while still indicating better than 100 M.P.H. Application of power did not completely cushion the shock. The airplane dropped off to the left causing the main impact to be so great that the left tire blew out and the drag-link failed, causing major damage to the aircraft. The fact that the pilot leveled out too high was the major cause of the accident. Had he leveled out at the proper altitude the fact that the airspeed was still reading well above stalling would have made no difference.

The Board is of the opinion that the accident is attributable to 100% Pilot Error because of poor technique in landing.


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


DAVID K. LYSTER, JR.,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Member.


JOHN S. ROBINSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Member.

ENCLOSURES:

Exhibit "A" - Pilot's Statement.
Exhibit "B" - Convening Authority.



Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

Date _____

HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDREDTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #559

15 May 1945

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement of aircraft accident of 16 May 1945.

TO : President of Aircraft Accident Board, AAF Station 139.

1. On 16 May 1945 at approximately 08:30 hours, I, Joseph A. Drottar, Pilot, of aircraft #42-97126 received landing instructions from control ship at Horsching Airfield. I spaced myself in the pattern and made normal approach at 130 MPH, IAS.

2. On approach I call and received permission to land. On leveling off I found myself high but had a safe airspeed. At 110 MPH, IAS the bottom dropped out and we settled in rapidly. I immediately applied full power, but there was no effect. We hit in a three point altitude. It seemed that the left tire blew out immediately as I heard a loud report. The drag link must have snapped also as the left wing dropped. The control ship called us and told us to keep the left wing up. I immediately cut power on #3 and 4 engines at same time using brake and rudder to keep left wing up. As our speed slowed down and I saw we were going to stop, the co-pilot cut the mixture controls. We then swung 90° to the left and came to a stop. I cut the switches, and everyone abandoned the aircraft. No one was hurt.

Joseph A. Drottar
JOSEPH A. DROTAR,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot

Exhibit "A".

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139
APO 559

Special Orders)
Number.....3)

3 January 1945

EXTRACT

4. In accordance with Par 1, Part 6, AAF Regulation No. 62-14A, as modified by Section 3, 8th AF Memo 60-2 and USSTAF Reg No. 62-1, 4 Nov 44, the following named Officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

MAJ JOHN B WALLACE, 0388897, AC
MAJ MARVIN S. BOWMAN, 0474852, AC
MAJ DAVID K LISTER, JR., 0393149, AC
MAJ GEORGE O EMERSON, 0382947, MC
CAPT EDWARD D WOOTEN, 0792087, AC
CAPT JOHN S ROBINSON, 0426428, AC
1ST LT ELLIS D PIKE, 0873991, AC

Hq 100th Bomb Gp
Hq 100th Bomb Gp
350th Bomb Sq
Hq 100th Bomb Gp
418th Bomb Sq
Hq 100th Bomb Gp
18th Wea Det 139

By order of Colonel JEFFREY:

HORACE L. VARIAN, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/DALE Z. HOBBS,
t/DALE Z. HOBBS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't Adjutant

THIS IS A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Stanley P. Gorski
STANLEY P. GORSKI,
1st Lt., Air Corps

Exhibit "B"

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

E-4-1

360.33

2nd Ind.

12 JUN 1945

HEADQUARTERS 5D AIR DIVISION, APO 559.

TO: Commanding General, 15th Combat Wing, APO 559

1. Returned herewith aircraft accident report involving B-17G 42-97126. A review of this case and the findings of the Aircraft Accident Board indicate disciplinary action in view of the experience level of the Pilot, and the fact that there were no other contributing factors to the accident, such as weather, materiel failure, etc.

2. It is therefore suggested that the Pilot be given an administrative reprimand.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD:

1 Incl: n/c



F. E. Fitzpatrick
F. E. FITZPATRICK
Captain, Air Corps
Actg Asst Adj Gen

360.33

3rd Ind.

E-M-5

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H), APO 559.

15 June 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 109th Bomb Group (H), APO 559, U. S. Army

1. Your attention is directed to 2nd Indorsement.

By command of Brigadier General HUGL:

1 Incl: n/c

J. T. Robison
JAMES T. ROBISON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

- 2 -

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDREDTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #559

B-4-3.

24 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 13th Combat Bombardment Wing, APO #559.

1. Attached hereto are the original and four (4) copies of AAF Form #14, with supporting exhibits, in connection with the aircraft accident of 16 May 1945, (Pilot - 2nd Lt., Joseph A. Drottar).

2. No disciplinary action will be taken.

3. The findings of the Aircraft Accident Board are concurred in.

Fredrick J. Sutterlin
FREDRICK J. SUTTERLIN,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

INCLOSURES: -

- 1 - AAF Form #14 (in quint.)
with supporting exhibits

360.33

1st Ind.

B-4-5

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (H), APO 559, U.S. Army.

TO: Commanding General, 3d Air Division, APO 559, U.S. Army.

1. This headquarters concurs in the findings of the Aircraft Accident Board.

For the Commanding Officers

Bart McKel
BART MCKEL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Incls:

- 1 - AAF Form #14 (in quint.)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Ltr Sub 'Letter of Transmittal', fr Hq 100th Bom GP (H), AAF, APO #559, 24 May, 45, cont'd.

360.33

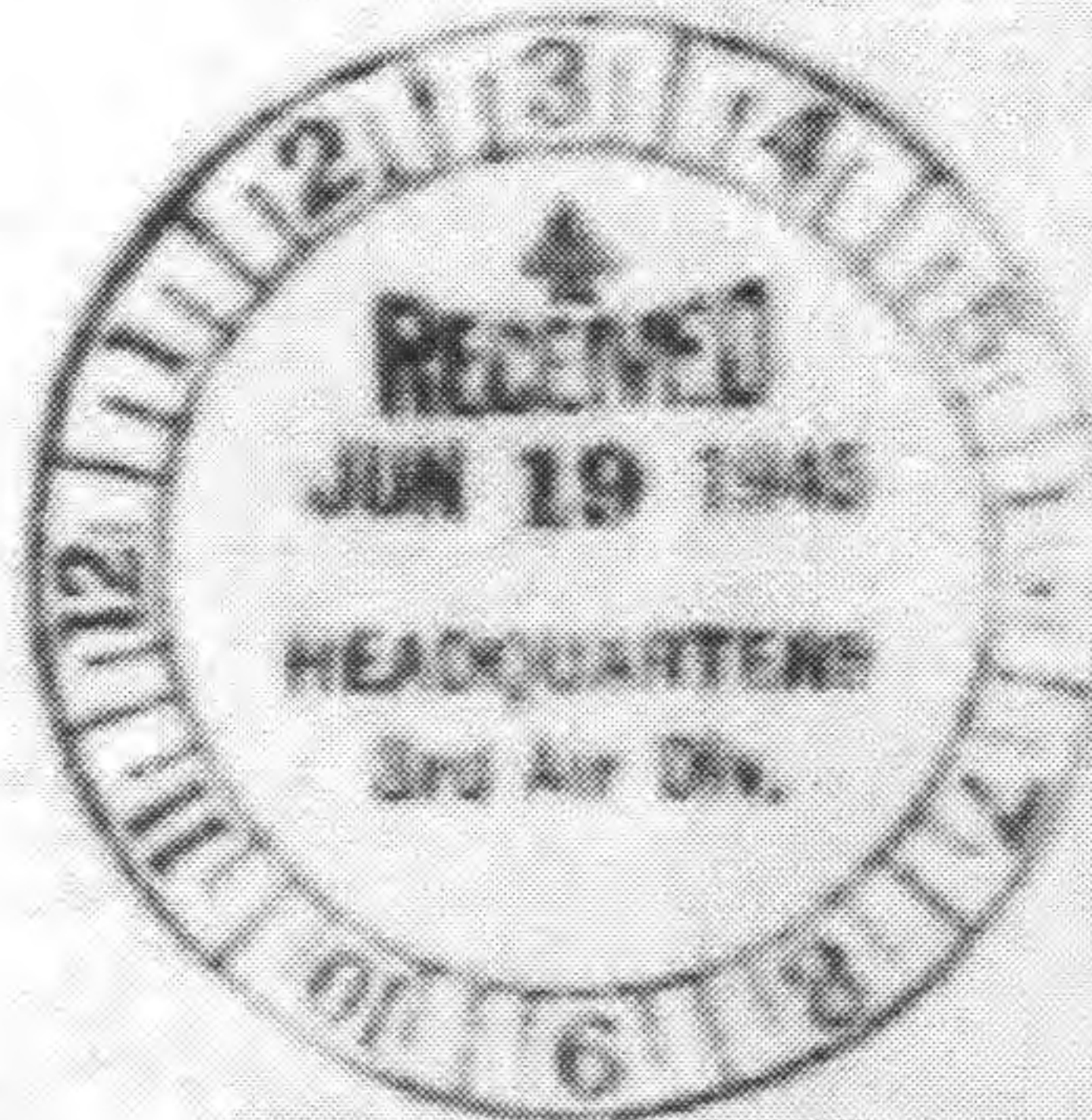
4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS AAF STATION #139, APO #559, US Army, 18 June, 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Hq 3d Air Division, APO #559.

1. Returned herewith aircraft accident report involving B-17G A/C 42-97126.
2. Pilot has been reprimanded as suggested in paragraph 2, 2nd indorsement.

1 Incl:
n/c



John B. Wallace
JOHN B. WALLACE,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

360.33

5th Ind.

DCSO-D-9

HEADQUARTERS 3D AIR DIVISION, APO 559,

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.

21 JUN 1945

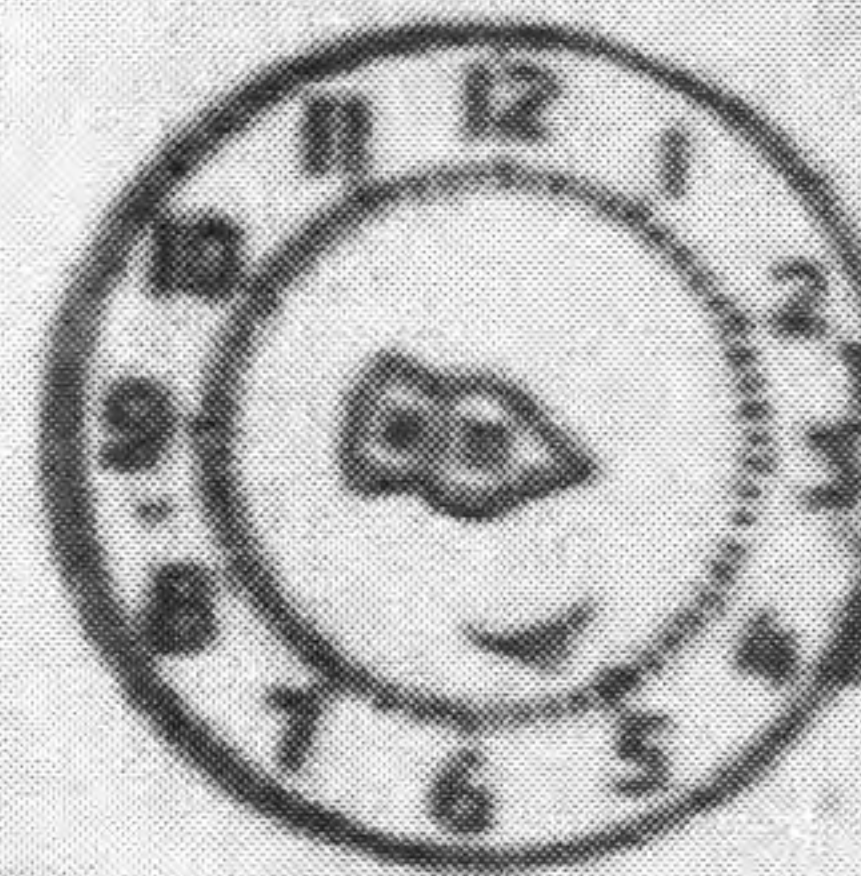
Forwarded in compliance with USSTAF Regulation 62-1 is a report covering an accident involving B-17G aircraft number 42-97126 which occurred 16 May 1945.

JUN 22 1945

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:

Incl 1 - AAF Form #14 and allied papers (in trip)
1 cy ea w/d.



E. E. Fitzpatrick
E. E. FITZPATRICK
Captain, Air Corps
Actg Asst Adj Gen

RECEIVED
HQ. 8th AIR FORCE

RESTRICTED