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WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Accident No. _____

(1) Place Station 106 (2) Date 18 November, 1943 (3) Time 1500
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17F (5) A. F. No. 42-3440 (6) Station 106 Z 354
Organization: (7) 8th (8) 384th Bomb (H) 544th Bomb (H)
(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	HARVEY, WALTER L.	P	0-672350	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th		
CP	BROWN, DEWEY C.	P	0-673704	2nd Lt.	01	AC	8th		
62	PHILLIPS, WILBERT P.	A E	1108249	Sgt.	38-20	AC	8th		
62	PETRO, LOUIS M.	-	33151791	Sgt.	38-20	AC	8th		
67	RATTO, BERNIE L.	-	332632038	Pfc.	38-20	AC	8th		

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HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCE

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) HARVEY WALTER L. (21) 0-672350 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 01 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th (26) 384th Bomb (27) 544th Bomb (H) (28) 106 Z 354
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) _____ (30) _____ (31) A M E (32) _____
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 2/1/43 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 2/1/43 Instrument rating (37) _____
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type 274:00 (42) Instrument time last 6 months _____
(39) This model 274:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days _____
(40) Last 90 days 83:05 (44) Night time last 6 months _____
(41) Total 475:40 (45) Night time last 30 days _____

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

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

(50) Weather at the time of accident _____

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

(52) Cleared from Z 354 (53) To Z 354 (54) Kind of clearance _____

(55) Pilot's mission Training

(56) Nature of accident Taxing Accident

(57) Cause of accident Malfunction of tail wheel retracting assembly.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Lt. Harvey and Lt. Brown took off in plane No. 42-3440 for the purpose of shooting landings. After landing they proceeded to taxi around the perimeter where they encountered a truck whose driver gave them the all clear sign but the right wing failed to clear the top of the truck, damaging the wing and aileron. They then proceeded to taxi to their dispersal area, after going several hundred yards the brakes were applied and the tail wheel assembly gave way.

Investigation revealed material failure in the tail wheel retracting assembly, but, the damage to the right wing panel and aileron was considered pilot error.

Statements of the pilot, Flying Control Officer, and Engineering Officer are attached.

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10/15/47

DATE

"I was on duty in the Flight Control Tower at the time of the crash of the aircraft on May 13, 1947. The aircraft was on the runway and was doing a low pass over the runway. The ship (440) made its first landing on runway 01 and failed to exit at runway, turned right on the perimeter track and around the perimeter in rear of Control Tower to the end of the I.L. runway (East End). When aircraft reached this position, the Airfield Controller at the end of runway 01 called the Tower and said there was something wrong with the aircraft's tail wheel. Almost immediately the pilot of the ship stated in his radio call that he was cutting engine as he was having trouble with his tail wheel. I immediately informed the Operations section of the weather (WFO, Conn.) and asked them to relay the aircraft's name as possible. I informed South Operations of the accident at 1130. The aircraft was stalled on the perimeter track when I was relieved at 1200."

Willy H. Skinner
Capt., Air Corps
Flight Control Center

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544TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
Office of the Squadron Commander

22 November 1943

SUBJECT: Statement of Air Craft Accident.

TO : Commanding Officer, 384th Bombardment Group (H), AAF, AAF Station 106,
APO 634.

1. The following statement was made by 2nd Lt. Walter L. Harvey, this Squadron, as an account of accident of B-17F, Ser. No. 42-3440.

"We taxied #440 around the perimeter after shooting one landing, a telephone truck approached us and pulled off to the right side of the perimeter and gave us the come-ahead signal. Our right wing scraped over the top of the truck, damaging the right aileron. We then proceeded to taxi to our dispersal area when our tail wheel assembly gave way. We stopped the plane and cut the engines."

"At we were shooting landings we did not bring the landing gear up. As a result we did not crank tail wheel upon landing, knowing that it was already down."

2. The following named men were in the plane at the time of the accident:

Sgt. W. P. Phillips
Sgt. Louis M. Petro
Pfc. B. L. Ratto

Walter L. Harvey

WALTER L. HARVEY,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

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