WAR DEPART MENT A. A. F. Form No. 14 (Revised May 18, 1942). DOW FIELD, BANGOR, MAINE

WAR DEPARTMENT

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

43 5-19-11

(1) Place DOW FIELD, BANGOR, MAINE (2) Date May 19, 1943 (3) Time AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B=177 (5) A. F. No. 42=5851 (6) Station Hdg. Presque Organization: (7) No. Atlantic Hing-AT(6) (Group) (Group) (Squadron) PERSONNEL	Lale	
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	GAITHER, RAYMOND A.	P	0-672790	2nd Lt.	01	AC	NAW	NONE /	
1	JUART, WILLIAM W.	N	0-796543	2nd Lt.	01	AC	NAW :	NONE /	
1	BRYANT, ARTHUR H.	- B-	0-735167	2nd Lt.	-01	AC-	NAW	MINOR 2	
80	DEVILLE, MILTON J.		18133971	T/Sgt.	38 20	AC	NAW	NONE /	
	JACKSON, BILLY J.		18076024	Pyt.	38 20	AC	NAT	NONE /	
	HOLLINGSWORTH, FRANK E	•	34207347	S/Sgt	38)	AC	NAT	NONE /	
60	HUGHES, WALDEN A.		13065674		38 2.0	AC	HAN	NONE /	
40	PADUCH, THEODORE	-	32489613	S/Sgt.	38 20	AC .	NAW	NONE /	
44.	REISS, ALFRED		16124429	S/Sgt.			- AAA	ACM /	
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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Two airplanes landed immediately proceding and had no trouble. The wind at the time was variable in intensity and direction. Lt. Keck approached runway No. 4 making normal approach and landing within 1st 3rd of runway. However, in applying brakes he discovered that the left brake was completely inoperative. Feeling it necessary to use brakes to stop before reaching end of runway, Lt. Keck applied his emergency brake. The left brake being inoperative caused the ship to swerve off the runway to the right. Seeing unfavorable terrain ahead he decided to apply power from the two right engines. In doing so, the ship swerved sharply to the left across the runway and crashed into piles of dirt and holes beyond the dirt seal on the left hand side of runway.

The decision of the pilot to attempt to turn the airplane back on to the runway by the use of his engines after it had left the runway on the right was a sound one. The results of the technique used indicates that an excess amount of power was applied, causing the airplane to turn sharply to the left. The perfect pilot would have applied just enough power to turn the airplane back on to the runway. The delay in the response, inherent in the reaction taking place when attempting to change the direction of an airplane on the ground with the engines, is sufficiently large so that overcontrolling is almost inevitable.

The underlying cause of the accident was the failure of the left brake to act normally after a correct landing had been made.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

FRANCIS B. VALENTINE

Col., Air Corps

Commanding

DANFEL B. LINDSEY

Major, Air Corps

A.T.C. Control Officer

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m. bleken

Signature

MALCOLIN M. HE BERSting Officer)

Major, Mir Corps

Aircraft Accident Officer

Date May 24. 19/3

B. S. GOYERSHELT PRINTING SYPICE ... 10 3678

- Q. What instructions did you receive from the Control Tower?
- A. To land on Runway #4. Wind calm, no direction, velocity Z.
- Q. What direction was your plane after you received initial instructions before making approach to the field?
- A. Following, 35 North of field was seened field. Dragged field looking at the field seeing how field set then following Major around, 3rd in traffic to land about 45 sec. behind Major on landing leg.
- Q. On landing were you aware of mechanical difficulty?
- A. Nome, Sir, whatsoever. I thought it would be a good one.
- Q. After landing, in applying brakes, did you notice any difficulty?
- A. Yes, Sir. I let it roll. The ship started to roll straight down the runway. I was concerned in keeping it straight and not looking at the sir speed to see how fast we were going. After seeing the runway end coming up fast I started to touch both brakes. The right brake grabbed but the left brake did not hold. The plane was still straight down the runway. Finding that the left brake had a melfunction, I started to apply both brakes with their full power. Found that left brake did not hold at all. Right brake was grabbing, throwing sirplane to right side of runway. Before going off the runway, we applied full emergency brakes and they did not hold either. Decided that going off right side of runway would cause us to hit a ditch and an embankment of dirt. T put on full right engines to turn the ship left. I thought that if the plane kept going to the right it would hit the hill and kill the bombardier and mavagator. After applying full right throttle the plane veered to the left, perpendicular to runway, across the runway straight for another ditch and small dirt embankment. The right wheel hit sewerage main and a hill, approximately from 3 to 4 feet deep causing the airplane to swing to the right and land approximately parallel to the embankment on the left side of the field. The plane hit the embankment, the left wheel dropped in a 6 foot hole and she stopped.
- Q. Did you feel at any time in your approach that you were over-shooting?
- A. No. Sir. Neither the Co-pilot nor myself had any doubt as to whether or not we could stop on the runway.

- Q. Did you have any doubt in your mind as to the proper runway to land on?
- A. No, Sir. I drug the field. On the landing the first time there were two planes going in before me.
- Q. Before landing did you notice the direction in which the wind tee was pointing?
- A. No, Sir. The wind tee could have been in any direction. I did not look at the wind tee. Tower reported wind calm, therefore tee could have been in any direction.
- Q. Do you feel that in any way the direction of the wind may have been a contributing factor to the accident?
- A. Yes, Sir, I do. We landed down wind with full flaps.
- Q. Do you feel, in your own opinion, that mechanical difficulties, that is, your left brake, was a contributing factor?
- A. Yes, Sir. If we had had a left brake we could have stopped the airplane before we hit the end of the runwey. The history of the left brake, I feel, will be important information to be used in the accident record. Ever since the Vega 17 was assigned to me the left brake has given us trouble since the first day we ran up the engines with the brakes locked. The left brake did not hold very well. Ground engineers thought it was in the Hydralic system. The Hydralic system was bled and refilled. The brake would hold some days and some days would not. On arriving at Kearney, Nebraska, we had the left brake band taken off, found that the brake surface of the left brake has been scarred down to the metal. Braking blocks worm so as to give no traction. A new brake assembly was put on. The brakes were checked in perked position and found that it was still slipping. The engineering department decided that it was in the Hydrelic system. They replaced the shutter valve in the debooster system. On O.K. from ground engineers took plane up for a test hop. On first running up the engines brake did not hold. Cut engine Hydralic pressure, checked. Sterted engines again, proceeding to test brake with full left throttle brake found O. K. On check flight the landing was made without the use of brakes. I did not determine whether the brakes would hold on landing. Pefore our flight to Bengor, Maine, the engines were run up and left brake held O. K.
- Q. When did you first become aware that a B-17 had landed and was at end of runway?
- A. When I was on the runway. I was under the impression that the plane on end of the runway would turn right to a taxi strip. I felt even though was there I could stop the ship without coming even close to him.

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Report of Co-pilot on crash of B-17F 25851 Crew 77.

G. B. Keck (Pilot) called Tower thirty-five miles North of Bangor. I was on interphone talking to bombardier. He told me wind reported calm. Called Tower again 5 miles out. We were told to drag field once. We followed 065 into traffic and dragged field behind him. We were third ship in traffic. Pilot called Tower on Base leg and Tower said we were clear to land. We approached field 125 M.P.H. and hit runway at 95 M.P.H. Pilot let the ship roll app. 50 yes, before trying brakes. I changed prop. pitch from 2100 to full R.P.M. Pilot called "brakes cut" and grabbed emergency handle. I grabbed emergency pump. The plane then veered off the runway. The right brake had held enough to turn ship. We left runway and I tried emergency handle two or three times. It did not work. We went down side of runway app. 300 yds. The pilot noticed deep ditch right of runway and turned, with use of right engines, to the left and awerved across runway. The plane hit hole in ground with right wheel and swung to the right and settled in another large hole. The plane did not slow down over 25 M.P.H. after we hit the ground on landing. I reached over and cut switches after we had stopped.

St R. A. Saicher

- Comments

At 18:10, May 19, 1943, army 5851 received the following landing instructions from Dow Control Tower, "You are cleared to the field." "Make your approach to runway #4." "Wind direction D-Dog. Wind velocity Z-Zebra. Drag the runway once and then give the Tower a call when on your base leg for your landing sequence number."

This information was receipted for with "Roger" and it was obtained by visual reference to our wind direction and velocity indicator and not by the wind teb or the hourly weather report.

At 18:17 army 230032 landed on runway #4 and proceeded to the end with instructions to hold his position there as aircraft were landing behind him. At approximately 18:18 army 30065 let down over runway #4 but apparently decided he was coming in too high and pulled up to go around again.

Immediately army 5851 was given clearance to lead. He came in and hit the runway slightly farther down than the other ships had been hitting it. He didn't appear to have an excessive rate of speed and it appeared he would stop at a point just past the intersection of the #4 and East-West runways. But at a point just past the intersection he appeared to be slowing up and also going off along the right hand side of runway #4. He continued raising dust along the side of the runway for a short distance when the ship made a sharp left turn and went diagonally across the runway to come to a complete stop just off the left hand side. My impression was the ship had mechanical trouble of some sort as it seemed to be running smoothly until going off in the dirt along the right hand side of the runway.

These are the facts as I see them to the best of my ability.

Sgt. WAYNE E. RONEY

Operator on Duty

wind Direction on Landing Code #69244 D-Dog - Calm & Wind Velocity Z-Zebra - 0

May 20, 1943

Aircraft Involved: B-17F-25-VE, AAF No. 42-5851

Investigated in compliance with AAF Regulation No. 62-14, dated May 26, 1942, Part Seven

The following switches and controls were found in the positions indicated:

Switches - Ignition - Off Fuel Valves - on Throttle - Unknown Misture - Full Rich Prop Controls - Low Pitch Feathering Control - Not Feathered Wheel Retracting Control - Neutral, Wheels Down Flap Retracting Control - Flaps Down Wheels - Down Trim Tab Controls - Landing Position Flaps - Full Down Supercharger Controls - 41 inches Shutter Controls - Closed Automatic Pilot Controls - Off

Fire Extinguisher Controls - None Carb. Air Heat Controls - Cold (Jammed at 35) Cockpit Heat Controls - Off Control Lock - Unlocked Parking Brake - Off Stick - Unlocked Rudder - Unlocked Engine Cowl Flap Controls - Closed Primer Controls - Off Oil Dilution Controls - Off

INSTRUMENT READINGS:

De-Icer Controls - Off

Clock - Operative Electrical Instruments:

> Volt Meter - 0 Flap Indicator - Down P.D.I. - 0 Radio Compass - 115° Battery Switches - Off Fuel Tank Indicators -

Engine Instruments:

Manifold Pressure Gage #1 engine - 15 inches

Fuel Pressure Gage #1 engine - 14 lbs.

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Engine Instruments (Continued):
      Tachometer Reading #1 engine - 800
                                  - no reading
                                  - 1300
      Oil Pressure Gage #1 engine - 40 lbs.
                                 - 50 m
                                 - 10 m
                                 - 24
                                 - 14 "
     Oil Temperature Gage #1 engine - 0°
                      # #2.
     Cylinder Head Temperature Gage #1 engine - 0°
 Might Instruments:
    Rate of Climb Indicator - 0
                                   Altimeter - 140 ft.
    Bank and Turn Indicator - 0
                                   Artificial Horizon -
 Amount of Fuel in lanks:
   Fuel Gage - 0 700 gals. right tank drained after accident
 Amount of oil in Tanks:
   138 gallons
Parachutes - any evidence of attempted use - None
Flares - not used
BINDING, BREAKAGE, ETC., OF CONTROL RODS, BELL CRANKS, TORQUE TUBES, ETC.
Throttle Binds
                        Automatic Pilot Switches OK
Mixture Inoperative
                        No Brakes
Ailerons Jammed
                        Landing Gear Retracting Mechanism Out
Rudder Jammed
                        Plap Retracting Mechanism Inoperative
Klevators Jammed
                      Tail Wheel Retracting Mechanism Inoperative
Trim Tabs Jammed
                      Dual Controls Retracting Mechanism Inoperative
Supercharger Jammed
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Check all control surfaces for "reedom of movement and for presence of foreign objects which might have caused sticking or locking. No Factor.

Check to see if there are any parts of the airplane missing. None.

Check loading of the airplane - amount and distribution. Approx. 60,000 lbs.

Check to see if there is any evidence of structural failure.

Brakes - The left brake drum badly burned. The left brake shoe also burned.

The right brake appears to be OK.

Is there any evidence of fire - how and where did it start? None.

Check AAF form No. 1 for entries which might have indicated an unusual condition of the airplane or equipment. None.

Was the radio information chart in the sirplane? Yes.

Was the "Check List" in the airplane? Yes.

Was there any evidence pointing to sabotage? Assume the existence of sabotage until proven otherwise. None.

2nd Lt., Air Copps
Base Engineering Officer

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AIR TOSE HEADQUARTERS 10-4A Office of the Base Operations Officer Page 1 Dow Field Bangor, Maine May 14, 1943 OPERATIONS CIRCULAR) NUMBER 10-4A FLYING REGULATIONS DIAGRAM, NULBERING SYSTEM RUNN AYS Don Field Bangoc, Laine This circular supersedes Operation Circular 10-4A dated hay 14, 1942. position of sirently obstructing and of runway Approx. point of the brake application point of ~ Direction of (over)

-AIR BASE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE BASE OPERATIONS OFFICER DOW FIELD BANGOR, MAINE

000.93

MH/mwg Kay 25, 1943

SUBJECT: Transmittal of WD AAF Form No. 14.

: Commanding General, Army Air Force, Washington, D. C. through Commanding Officer, Dow Field, Bangor, Maine).

1. Transmitted herewith is the original copy of ND AAP Form No. 14, accomplished in compliance with AAF Regulation 62-14.

alcolo m. Hea

ALCOLM M. HEBER, Major, Air Corps, Base Operations Officer Aircraft Accident Officer

Incl.

1 - ND AAF Form No. 14

2 - Photographs

1 - Survey of Damage

3 - Statements

000.93

1st Ind.

EHS: msa

AIR BASE HEADQUARTERS, Dow Field, Bangor, Maine, May 26, 1943.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C

Approved.

THORNE DEUEL

Lt. Col., AC,

Commanding.

Incl.n/c

SURVEY OF DAMAGE B-1/F 42-5851

#3 Enginetorn out

#3 Prop. damaged extensively

Fuselage broken in two at #6 station

R inboard wing damaged extensively

Rear portion of fuselage twisted

#3 turbo badly damaged

R landing gear damaged extensively.

#1,2 & 4 props damaged

L outboard wing damaged extensively

L inboard wing badly strained

Tail wheel retracting mech. & structure torn out

I gear badly strained

Plexiglass nose cracked

All engines sudden stoppage

Ball turret slightly damaged

Radio loop damaged extensively

Harry E. Nijon Je.

BASE OPERATIONS DOW FIELD BANGOR, MAINE

May 19, 1943

I certify that the following message is official business and is necessary in the military service:

G: A. ORWISTON

let Lt., AC

Ass't, Adjutant

The priority rating of this message is:

URGENT ROUTINE OPERATIONAL PRIORITY DEFERRED

TO BE DELIVERED

COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON, D. C.

DF M165P

AUS SECOND AF KRARIET FIELD, MER. LANDING ACCIDENT. LEFT BRAKE THOPPRATTUR.

PILOT NO INJURY. CO-PILOT SECOND LITERARY RAYMOND A GAITHER AUS SECOND AF
KRARNEY FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. MAYIGATOR SECOND LIEUTERANT HILLIAM , JUANT
AUS SECOND AF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. BONBARDIER SECOND LIEUTERANT HILLIAM , JUANT
AUS SECOND AF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. BONBARDIER SECOND LIEUTERANT ARTER

H. BRYANT AUS RECORD OF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. LES'T RANDIERS

T/SOT MILLOUF J. DEVILLE SECOND AF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. LES'T RANDIERS

PVT BILLY J. LAUSCO SECOND AF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. ASS'T MADIO
OPERATOR SOT JALDER AF ENGINES SECOND AF KRARKET FIELD, MES. NO INJURY. LES'T MADIO
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GURBER AFST THROUGH DE LING ES INATED SOOD F. VISIBILITY OFFICIALE

SURPACE TERD BUTCH SOTH MESS 12 MPH 2-555 B-17F KRARKEY FIELD, MES. ATRPLATE
COMPLETE WERE AFROM THE SALVAGE. NOW

COYD DL

WALCOLM M. HEBER Major, AC Base Operations Officer

43-5-19-11

. ARMY AIR FORCES

For Action AIU For Info. CS
For File MXR

HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND

WINSTON-SALEM, NOFTH CAROLINA D

5/20/43

x T. W. 1

INCOMING

TELEGRAM

RADIO

MESSAGE NO. MSG 1 ARL 234 MAY 20/43

DOWFIELD BANGOR MAINE 200245Z



CC AAF WASHINGTON D C

DF M165P 19 MAY 18.19 DOW FIELD MAINE. PILOT FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE B KECK AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. LANDING ACCIDENT. LEFT BRAKE INOPERATIVE. PILOT NO INJURY. CO-PILOT SECOND LEIUTENANT RAYMOND A. GAITHER AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. NAVIGATOR SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM W. JUART AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. BOMBARDIER SECOND LIEUTENANT ARTHUR H. BRYANT AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. MINOR LACERATIONS OF HEAD. ENGINEER T/SCT MILTON J. DEVILLE SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD NEB. NO INJURY. RADIO OPERATOS SISCT FRANK E. HOLLINGSWORTH SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB NO INJURY. ASST RADIO OPERATOR SGT WALDEN A. HUGHES SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. ABRIAL GUNNER S/SGT THEOBORE PADUCH SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJYR. ASST AERIAL GUNNER S/SGT ALFRED REISSISECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. TACTICAL XC HIGH BROKEN LOWER CLOUDS CEILING ESTIMATED 5000 FT. VISIBILITY UNLIMITED SURFACE WIND SOUTH-WEST 12 Mart 42-5851 B-17F KEARNEY FIELD NEB. AIRPLANE COMPLETE WRECK. LOCAL SALVAGE. NONE..

VALENTINE COAB DF

RECD IN AAF MESG CENT 20 4 35 RECD BY AFAFC 20 0832 EWT RELEASED TO TWX 200930 EWT

MH 1010EWT

43-5-19-11

DOWFIELD BALGOR MAINE 200245Z

COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON DC

DF M165P 19 MAY 18.19 DOW FIRLD WAINE, PILOT FIRST LIMUTENANT GRONCE B KECK AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, MEB. LANDING ACCIDENT. LEFT BRAKE INOPERATIVE, PILOT NO INJURY. CO.P.LOT SECOND LIEUTENANT RAYMOND A. GAITHER AUS SECOND AF KNARNEY FIELD, NEE, HO INJURY, NAVIGATOR SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM W. JUART AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. BOMBARDIER SECOND LIEUTENANT ARTHUR H. BRYANT AUS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. MINOR LACERATIONS OF HEAD, ENGINEER T/SGT MILTON J. DEVILLE SECOND AF REARNEY FIELD NEB. NO INJURY. ASST ENGINEER PVT BILLY J. JACKSON SECOND AF KKAHNE FLELD, NEB. NO INJURY. RADIO OPERATOR S/SGT FRANK E. HOLLINGSWORTH SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. ASST RADIO OPERATOR SOT WALDEN A. HUCHES SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEE, NO INJURY. AERIAL GUNNER SISCT THEODORE-PADUCH SECOND AF KKARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. ASST AERIAL CUNNER S/SCT ALFRED REISS SECOND AF KEARNEY FIELD, NEB. NO INJURY. TACTICAL XC. HIGH BROKEN LOWER CLOUDS CHILING. ESTIMATED 5000 FT. VISIBILITY UNLIMITED SURFACE WIND SOUTH-WEST 12 MPH 42-5851 H-17F KEARNEY FIELD NEB. AIRPLINE COMPLETE WHECK. LOCAL SALVAGE, NONE.

COAB DF VALENTINE RECD IN AAF MESG CNET: 20 4 35 DISTRIBUTION AFPMP (3cys) AFTFO AFDFS (4cys) AFRTW (2cys)



