

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

44-1-9-504
133

(1) Place AAF 127 (2) Date 9 January 1944 (3) Time 16:37
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 42-37924 (6) Station AAF 106
Organization: (7) VIII Bomb Comd. (8) 384th Bomb (H) (9) 547th Bomb (H)
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)
CAF PERSONNEL 384 BHE 547 BK 04

DUIT (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL No. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
P	De Fries, Norman F.	P	0-740763	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	None
GP	Lovvorn, Hollie R.	P	0-748706	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	None
B	Miller, Ellis L.	B	0-679567	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	None
N	Moody, Ivan E.	N	0-685692	2nd Lt.	01	AC	VIII	None	None
E	Moore, Lloyd W.	E	19002060	T/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	None
R	Wright, William C.	R	32474866	T/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	None
AR	Ecker, John F.	R	12201570	S/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	None
AG	Smith, Luther E.	AG	11097586	S/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	None
AS	Kushner, Jack (NMI)	E	19175441	S/Sgt.	20	AC	VIII	None	None

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) De Fries Norman F. (21) 0-740763 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 01 (24) AC
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) VIII Bomb Comd. (26) 384th Bomb (H) (27) 547th Bomb (H) (28) AAF 106 (29) 7334
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (30) SAME (31) SAME (32) 7334
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) P-1 (34) 5-10-43 Present rating (35) P-1 (36) 3-10-43 Instrument rating (37) _____
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)
(38) This type 490:30 (42) Instrument time last 6 months 2-12-44
(39) This model 35:00 (43) Instrument time last 30 days _____
(40) Last 90 days 121:30 (44) Night time last 6 months _____
(41) Total 696:35 (45) Night time last 30 days _____

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE Main landing gear.

(46) Aircraft 4 engines, 4 propellers, chin turret & fairing, lower fuselage from sta. 1 to sta. 4, both bomb bay doors, lower fuselage sta. 5 to sta. 6, ball turret, both landing flaps, lower fuselage skin stiffener, circumferential sta. 6 to sta. 6B, 4 superchargers, right inner wing panel wrinkled and torn, # 3 nacelle sta 2 to 6, # 3 nacelle wrinkled and torn, #2 nacelle wrinkled
(47) Engine(s) 0
(48) Propeller(s) 4
(49) Weather at the time of accident next line below wrinkled and torn, #2 nacelle wrinkled
10/10 cloud 800 feet, visibility 1 mile, wind 20 MPH.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident _____
(52) Cleared from AAF 106 (53) To AAF 127 (54) Kind of clearance contact

(55) Pilot's mission Training

(56) Nature of accident right landing gear could not be lowered. Crash landing was accomplished successfully with no injury to personnel after all attempts to lower gear had failed.

(57) Cause of accident failure of right hand main landing gear motor drive shaft.

Accident No.

Pilot's Name

De Fries

Nature Group

Control

34 Specific Nature

Wind-up

28 Underlying Nature

*Improving your situation
mechanism*

117 & 23 Cause Group

Control

67 Specific Cause

*Improving your situation
situation mechanism*

70 Underlying Cause

*Wine - (Control
mechanism)*

Cause Group

Specific Cause

Underlying Cause

Accident No.

44-19-504

Date

Checked by

JM

3-11-44

Analyzed by

MC

2-12-44

Copied for Wright

Field by

Notes

~~*Other part work '11*~~
~~*out*~~

798 2519-43

Photo Copy mailed Wright Feb. 3-10-44

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

On 9 January 1944, B-17G #237924, was instructed to make a crash landing at AAF 127, because the landing gear could not be lowered. After every effort to lower right landing gear had failed the pilot crash landed successfully with no injury to personnel.

For recommendations refer to attached teletype.

Signature

Cecil E. West
CECIL E. WEST, Major, Air Corps.

Adolph H. Viger
ADOLPH H. VIGER, Captain, Air Corps.

Joseph A. Viger
JOSEPH A. VIGER, Captain, Air Corps.

790

Date _____

9 January, 1944

To: Whom it may concern:

Pilot's Statement, Crash Landing AT AAF Station 127, on 9 January 1944,
16:37.

We were flying ship #237924 on a local training mission; and when we brought squadron over the field at Grafton Underwood for a landing we were unable to lower the right landing gear either by electrical or manual means. Due to mechanical failure of the landing gear mechanism.

Upon orders from home base we dropped our bomb load on the Ashton Range then proceeded to Little Staughton where a crash landing was made. It was not possible to salvo the ball turret, but the sight was removed. No member of the crew was injured.

Norman F. DeFries
NORMAN F. DEFRIS,
Pilot,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
384th Bomb Group,
547 Bomb Sq.,

790

AAF STATION 127
Office of the Flying Control Officer
APO 635, U.S. Army

10 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Crash Landing of B-17 #237924.

TO : Aircraft Classification Committee, AAF 127, APO 635, U.S. Army.
(ATTENTION: Aircraft Accident Committee)

1. On 9 January 1944, at 1637 hours B-17G #237924 crash landed. No one was hurt. The aircraft belonged to the 547 Bomb. Sq. 384 Bomb Gp. based at AAF 106.

2. Lt. N.F. DeFrees, the pilot followed all instructions given to him by the control tower and made a good landing.



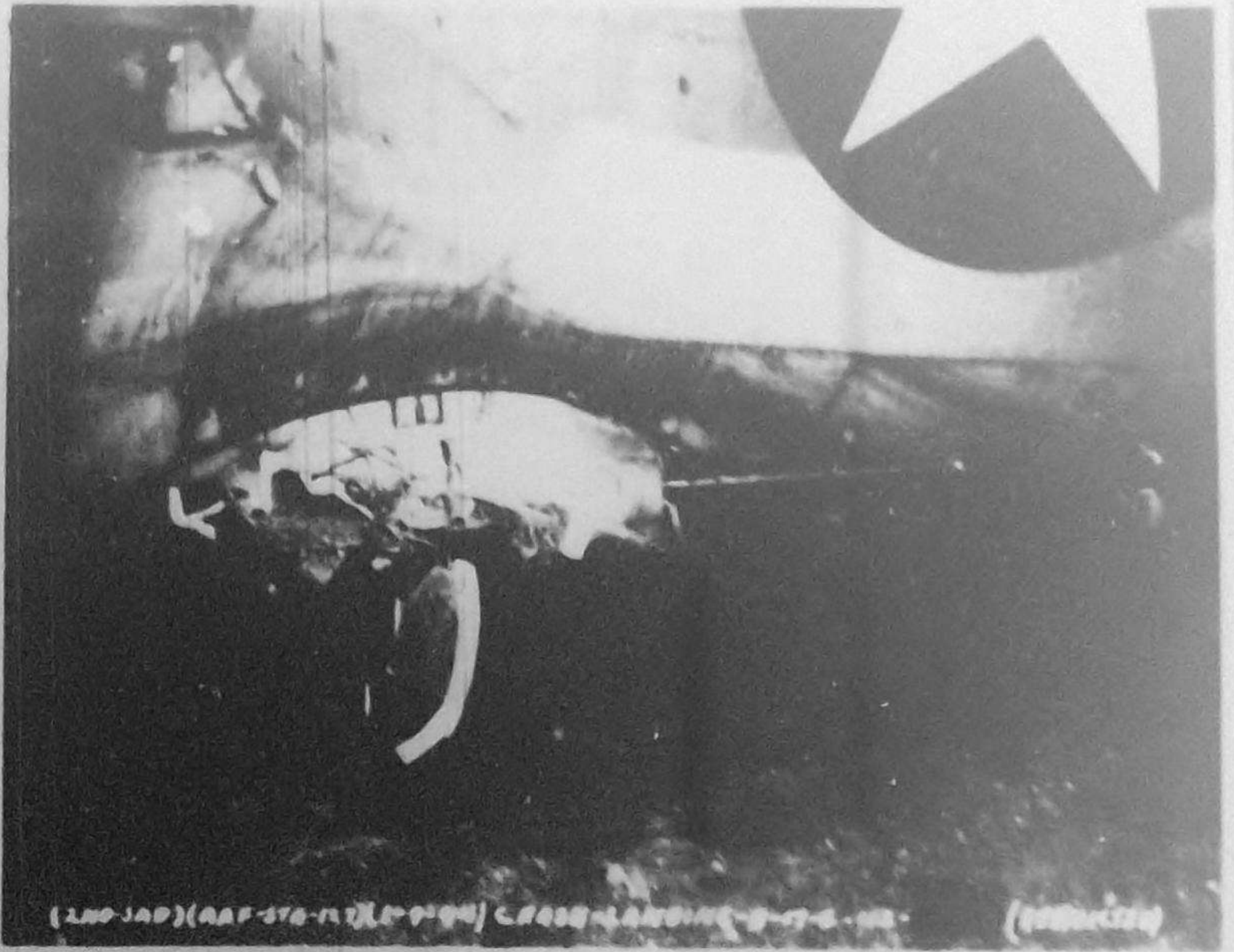
ARNOLD M. GOTTLIEB
1st Lt., Air Corps
Senior Flying Control Officer

790

3



(11-10-44) (1-9-44) WASH LANDING 8-17-0-42-37924 (RESTRICTED)

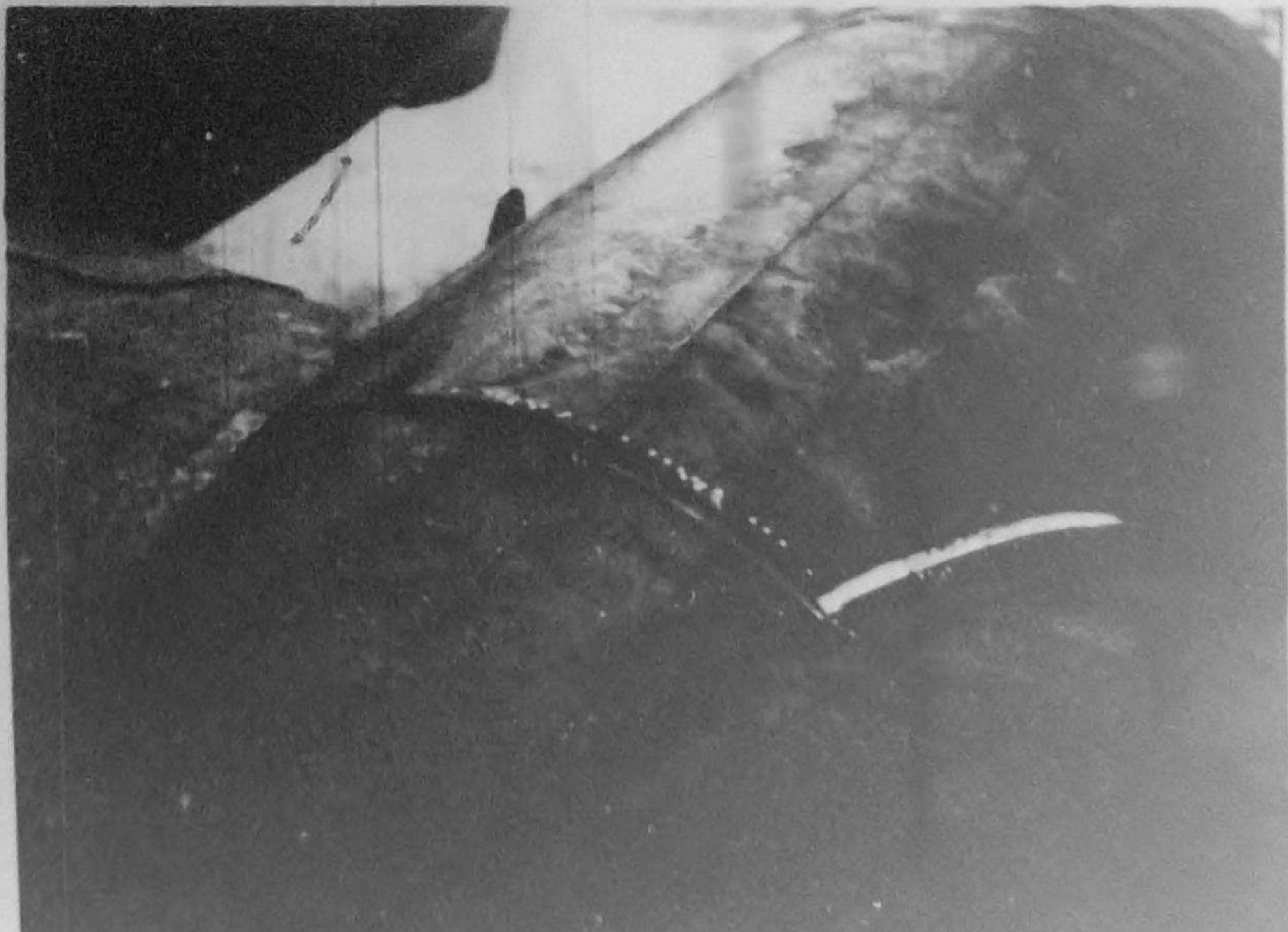


1968-07-17 (10:00 AM) (10:00 AM) (10:00 AM) (10:00 AM) (10:00 AM)

(10:00 AM)



LAND LANDING UNIT WITH AIR TANKS AND CRASH LANDING KIT - 4-25-57 (RESTRICTED)



(2ND 500)(AAF 414-127)(1-9-44) CLASH LANDING 8-17-6-42-

(RESTRICTED)