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### DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

The pilot made a normal approach to runway 22. He dropped his wheels and flaps and from his testimony, he was satisfied the gear was down and locked in position. The airplane made a normal landing with no excessive strain on the gear. The airplane was on its final roll down runway 22 when suddenly the pilot sensed his right gear folding back into the nacelle or back towards the direction of the nacelle. The excessive strain and weight on the left main gear caused it to also fold back towards the nacelle.

Both main gear folding back let the airplane skid to a stop on its belly.

Statements of the pilots and crew members indicate the gear indicator showed it to be down and locked, however, when the right gear mechanism was checked, it was found to be functioning normally and the hydraulic pressure gauge indicated the hydraulic system was functioning normally. Also, when the airplane was lifted to be carried from the runway, the gear mechanism properly locked the gears into place when the weight was taken off. It is possible the gear did fail but in view of the results of the investigation, it is my opinion the gear was not completely down and locked.

The pilot and his crew all stated the gear indicator said down and locked, therefore it is difficult to determine just where to place the responsibility.

Titure accidents of this type.

Signature Sull 7 Constitution of the Signature Major, Air Corps
Investigating Officer

Date .....

S. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10-20757-1

Landill Pink 5-11-43 41\_34757 572nd Bomb (M) S/Set Phillips H.E. FLIGHT DATA - PRINT PLAINLY -TERMINALS AND MISSION NAME - RANK - ORGANIZATION CLASS 572 B Sqd., 391st B Go 0-731778 MacDill 19:30\_ Ol Abernathy, William E. lat Lt. 572 B Sqd. 391st B 0p MacDill Field 21:45 01 Barker, Fred B., 0-738231., 2nd Lt. 2:3 HO OF 572 Sod 391 of B ( MacDill Held 2:3 01 Johnson, Elmer E. 0-732853., 2nd Lt., 2:3 572 B Sqd. 391st B Gp MacDill Field 20 Glenn, Robert E., 13031750, 8/8gt. 2:3 572 3 Sqd. 391st B Gp MacDill Field 20 Knick, Isaac F., 13049295, 8/8gt. 572 B Sqd. 391st B Go MacDill Field 20 Schultiess, John J., 13080723, Col. Main landing goor folded upon landing checked wheel position indicator before landing and showed wheels down and locked Landing was smooth. 10/ VILLIAN B. ABERNATHY Hereits Cartes CHECKED: 2:3 FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS WAR DEPARTMENT

5-11-43 MacDill Field 39let Bomb (M) ROUP NO. AND TYPE S/Set Philling H.E. 572nd Bomb (M) 41-34757 BUADRON NO. AND TYPE - PRINT PLAINLY -FLIGHT DATA NAME - RANK - ORGANIZATION TERMINALS AND MISSION MacDill 0-792029 01 JOBE. B.C. 1st Lt. AC 572 3: 5 Local 08 : 00 MacDill 0-672082 Hall, E.L., 2nd Lt., AC 572 3:5 11 : 30 MacDill 0-732884 Mitchell, M.B., 2nd Lt., 572 3: 5 3.5 MacDill 18109940 Burleson, C.A., S/Sgt. 572 MacDill 33201377 Disharoon, N.W., S/Sgt. 572 3:5 MacDill Loesch, L.F. Capt. 0-420611 · Local 13 : 00 Dunn, J.J.W., 2nd Lt., 0-7954 50 17 : 42 MacDill Lyon, T.G., 2nd Lt., 0-732872 HEROHADA Blau, E.W., S/Sgt. 34162918 A CERTIFIED TRUE COPYE WAR DEPARTMENT A. A. F. PORM NO. 1 CHECKED: FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS 8: 2

572nd Bombardment Squadron 391st Bombardment Group (M) AAF. Office of the operations Officer.

Subject" Engineer's Statement on damage to B 26 C Airplane.

To: Base Operations Officer, MacDill Field Tampa Plorida.

- 1. This accident happened at MacDill Field Tampa Florida. on may 11, 1943. The airplane was No. 41-34757.
- 2. We made our final approach to the field at about fifteen hundred feet every thing apparently normal and the ship seemingly in good condition. The pilot gave the signal to lower the wheels and I felt the wheels bump as they came to the stop on the down pes. I then checked the indicator and opened the escape hatcth to determine if the wheels were as the indicator showed, the gear was to the best of my knowledge down and locked. Everything was as usual untill after we had made contact with the ground. I felt a slight jar as the wheels hit and then the right wing started to drop as though we were still flying. The pilot raised the wing and ship started to settle on the left side. As soon as the left prop. started to hit the ground I realized that the gear must be collapsing. I reached up and pulled the idle cut-offs as the left engine seemed to be afire. at the same time the pilot cut the master switch and the mag, switches. I then checked the escape hatches to see that they were open. As soon a as the ship came to a stop I jumped out to make sure there was no danger from fire. I then got back into the ship and cut the main gas-line switches. By that time the crash truck was there. No one was in injured .

## ARMY AIR FORCES **HEADQUARTERS** 624 SUB-DEPOT

U-3

IN REPLY REFER TO

MACDILL FIELD, TAMPA, FLORIDA

452.1-43

May 19, 1943

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

1. The following parts were damaged on B-26C airplane #41-34757 due to collapse of main landing gear:

- A. Left and right propellers, all blades damaged beyond repair.
- b. Sudden stoppage of propeller, left engine.
- g. Part of skin ground off and buckles on bottom of fuselage, from station no. 434 1/4 to station no. 624 7/8.
- d. Formers partly ground off, or vent on bottom of fuselage, from station no. 447 1/4 to station no. 624 7/8.
- 2. Two antenna masts broken off, right side of tail section of fuselage.
- 1. Tail bumper assembly damaged beyond repair.
- g. Right and left camera doors damaged beyond repair.

IRVIN F. PYER,

Captain, Air Corps, Sub-Depot Engineering Officer.

> MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, May 17, 1943.

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement on Damage to B-26-C Airplane.

- Base Operations Officer, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

1. This accident happened at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, on May 11, 1943. The Airplane was No. 41-34757.

2. We made our final approach to Runway 22 without being able to contact the tower. However, the tower saw us and gave us clearance to land. About three quarters of a mile away and at an altitude of 1500 feet indicated, we lowered our wheels. The landing gear indicator showed the gear down and locked, and we could feel the vibration as the wheels went into place. The Engineer visually checked the nose gear and also checked the landing gear position indicator. I made the approach at 150 miles per hour using fifteen inches of mercury. The landing was extremely smooth, so much so in fact, that when the right main gear started back into the nacelle, I decided I was still in the air and was dropping a wing. I pulled the wing back to normal level position. I could then tell we were on the ground from the feel of the ship. We started vearing to the right and I gave it full left rudder and straightened it out. Evidentally the left and also right engines started throwing sparks from the runway. The Engineer cut the gas off by putting the mixture control into idle cut off and I cut the Master Switch. The main fuel shut off valves were closed by the Engineer immediately after the ship stopped. We soon slid to a complete halt and all of the 2. We made our final approach to Runway 22 without being the ship stopped. We soon slid to a complete halt and all of the crew got out. The crash wagon was there by the time we came to a stop. The crew was ininjured.

WILLIAM E. ABERNATHY,

1st Lt, AC.

> MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, May 17, 1943.

SUBJECT: Co-Pilot's Statement on Damage to B-26-C Airplane.

TO: -Base Operations Officer, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

1. This accident happened at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, on May 11, 1943. The Airplane was No. 41-34757.

2. We flew the pattern in the usual manner and made our calls in. After turning on final approach, the Pilot signaled for wheels down. I lowered the handle and felt the shudder as gear dropped. I checked gearpflap indicator and it indicated gear down and locked. Pilot signaled for flaps down and I dropped them. The approach was the same as always and I never suspected that anything was wrang until I saw sparks coming off the right prop and felt it leaning Blightly. The Pilot immediately raised has rightwing and we rolled on the left wheel alone. It gave away slowly and the nose wheel came down. It was at this time that the Master Switch and idle cut offs were cut by the Pilot and Engineer respectively. We skidded to a stop and I climbed out after the Engineer through the nose wheel well. In my mind it was an unavoidable accident and it was only exceptionally good glying that prevented the crew from receiving injury.

Frederick C. Barker, PREDERICK E. BARKER, 2nd Lt, AC.

MacDill Field Tampa, Florida May 17, 1943.

SUBJECT: Navigators Statement on Damage to B-26-C Airplane.

TO : Base Operations Officer, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

1. I was sitting in the navigators seat filling out the rest of my log. Noticed the wheels were let down at 1500 feet and 170 air speed. The next thing I noticed was peculiar attitude of the plane as the right wheel folded after a very smooth landing. Sparks flew from the right prop. The pilot then seemed to pick up the right wing and we went along for about 100 yards before the left prop hit and threw sparks and fire.

2. Due to excellent pilotage no one in the crew was hurt.

E.E. JOHNSON 2nd Lieut., A.C. Navigator

> MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, May 18, 1943.

SUBJECT: Gunner's Statement on Damage to B-26-C Airplane.

TO : Base Operations Officer, MacPill Field, Tampa, Florida.

1. This accident happened at Macbill Field, Tampa, Florida, on May 11, 1943. The Airplane was No. 41-34757.

2. I was sitting beside the putt-putt, holding on to the foote rest of the upper turret. I felt the right wheel hit the groung, then the plane seemed to keep falling to the right; then the plane leveled off. The next thing knew the plane was bouncing along the runway, I lost my grip on the foot rest and fell back against the camera frame. I got myself into an upright position; looked out the windows, and I saw sparks flying all around. When the plane came to a stop, I took out one of the side windows and climbed out. I ran to the front of the ship to see if anyone was hurt. Everyone was allright, only a little shaken up. I, myself, was a little scared when it was all over.

JOHN SCHULTHEISS, Cpl., AAF John Schuttleise

# DETACHMENT FOURTH WEATHER SQUADRON MACBILL Field, Tamps, Florida

May 21, 1943.

SUBJECT: Weather Conditions at Macmill Field on May 11, 1943.

TO : Base Operations Officer, Machill Field, Florida.

1. The general weather conditions in the vicinity of MacDill Field, Florida, during the evening of May 11, 1943, were high broken to overcast cirrostratus and altocumulus clouds, with scattered to broken stratocumulus clouds at 1800-3000 feet. Visibility was five (5) to seven (7) miles with light smoke. The surface wind was South to Southwest twelve (12) to seventeen (17) miles per hour.

Z. Pollowing are certified true copies of the MacDill Field weather observations at the times shown on May 11, 1943:

TIME (EWT)

1930 9/3007 129/80/711-17/991

2030 1865K- 135/79/711+18/993

2130 E1865K- 135/78/72112/993

2230 0/7 139/78/721-14/994

PAUL K. RUBBEL, Captain, Air Corps, RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS AIR BASE AREA COMMAND - MACDILL FIELD, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE AREA COMMANDER

G-ENER

In reply refer te: 000.98

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SUBJECT: Technical Report of Aircraft Accident.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Ferces, Washington, D.G.

Inclosed herewith is AAF Form No. 14 covering aircraft accident eccurring at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, May 11, 1943, involving B-26C airplame No. 41-24757, pilet - 1st Lt. WILLIAM E. ABERNATHY, AC, 572st Bomb Squadren, 391st Bomb Group, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

For the Area Commander:

ROGER HICES, ONL lot Lt., A.C.

1 Incl: Technical Report.

RELY

RECEIVED
1943 MAY 24 PM 2 29
DIR. FLYING SAFFTY

RESTRICTED

May 18, 1943. 5. nd. Bomb. 391st. Bomb.

To who it may concern:

I certify that the following statements are true to my knowledge. It involes the crash on May 11, 1943 at 2210.

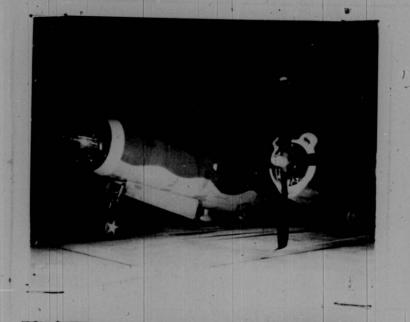
We were coming in for a landing after being cleared by the tower, when we hit the runway 22 to the south-west it seems to me that everything was alright until about 25 yards, then things began to happen---- the right landing gear gave way slowly and then by the shrewdness of the pilot or rather the keen thinging of the pilot, the weigh of the plane was throwen to the nose wheel and to the left landing gear. We rode that way for a short distance, and then the nose wheel flattened by the weight and the nonstraightened of the wheel. ( I judge ) By that time we were nearly stopped and the eft landing gear gave way. Sparks were everywhere since the right landing gear's props hit the runway. I made for the navigator's hatch, but was only in the way of the engineer who was busy helping the other crew members. I think that it wouls be an entirely different story if the whole crew had not worked together to the best advantage that could be rendered or be done.

I hereby state that this is my story and not someone else's story.

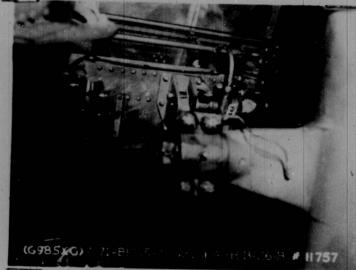
> Radio operator, Signed,

S/SGT. Isaac F.Knick

Isase & Knick







5/28

43-5-11-64

### GPE/CB/ave

AFCDP

SUBJECT: Technical Report of Aircraft Accident Classification Counities in Case of William E. Abermathy, 1st Lt., Airplane B-26C, Number 41-24757, May 11, 1943.

TO: Commending Officer, ManDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

It is requested this office be farmished total pilot hours as of May 11, 1943 for William E. Abernathy, let Lt., involved in the above accident.

For the Commending Officer:

# HQ. FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND

# ACTION SHEET

This circulation slip will remain with and become a part of the permanent record.

Informal reply may be made under remarks, also on reverse side, turning bottom edge up.

SUSPENSE

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT: 6th Ind.

FILE NUMBER 360.

SUBJECT: Transmitts Information Requested on Accientation MINDER Involving 1st Lt. William E. Abernathy, May 11, 1945

FROM: Hqs. Myrtle Beach Bombing Range, June 10

ROM: Ho	rale Bead	h, S. C		
NO.	DATE	PROM	70 .	REMARKS
1.	6/14/43	AG, M&R	C. A	udsusquie

51915-45

Evil Sect 3534) .

201-Abernathy, William E. (6)

6th Ind. WCB/HWB/bm HEADQUARTERS MYRTLE BEACH BOMBING RANGE, Myrtle Beach, S. C., June 10, 1943

TO: Commanding Officer, Army Air Forces, Flight Control Command, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Attention invited to preceding 4th Indorsement.

For then 104435 Officer:



H. W. BOOTH, Captain, Air Corps, Adjutant.

0/10/45

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201-Abernathy, William E. (0)

4th Ind.

LFL/jmf.

Hq, 572nd Bemb Sq, 391st Bomb Gp (N) AAF, MBBR, Myrtle Beach S.C. June 7, 1943. TO: CO, 391st Bomb Gp (M) AAF, MBBR, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

1. In complience with the basic communication the following is William E. Abernathy, let Lt., total Pilot Hours. () in tenths of hours)

Total B26 Time Co-Pilot-----55.2 Pilot-----91.0.

146.2

Day-----120.5 Night---- 25.7

Instrument--- 18.0

Total Training Time

200.2

Total Time

For the Squadron Commanders

pain Air Corpe, Operations Officer.

201-Abernathy, William E. (0)

5th Ind.

Eq. 391st Bomb Gp (M) AAF, MBDR, Myrtle Beach, SC, June 9, 1943.

To: CO, MBBR, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

For the Group Commander:

DAVID S. BLACKWELL. Major, Air Corps, Executive.

12

201-Abernathy, William E. (0)

2nd Ind. WCB/HWB/bm HEADQUARTERS MYRTLE BEACH BOMBING RANGE, Myrtle Beach, SC., June 5, 1943

TO: Commanding Officer, 391st Bomb Group, Myrtle Beach Bombing Range, Myrtle Beach, SC.

/////O

201-Abernathy, William E. (0) 3rd Ind. G-p-p

Eq. 391st Bomb Gp (N) AAF, MEBR, Myrtle Beach, S. C., June 5, 1943.

To: Co, 572nd Bomb Sq. 391st Bomb Gp (N) AAF, MEBR, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

For compliance with basic communication.

By order of Colonel WILLIAMS:

EMARD H. KOMIG. 1st Lt., Air Corps, Adjutant. ARMY AIR FORCES

## HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

GPK/CB/ava

APCEP 360.33

MAY 28 1943

Technical Report of Aircraft Accident Classification Committee in Case of William B. Abernathy, 1st Lt., Airplane B-26C, Humber 41-24757, May 11, 1943. SUBJECT:

Commending Officer, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida. 10:

It is requested this office be furnished total pilot hours as of May 11, 1943 for William E. Abernathy, 1st Lt., involved in the above accident.

For the Commanding Off

2ND LT., A. G. D.

SST ADJUTANT GENERAL

201-Abernathy, William E. (0)

. HEADQUARTERS AIR BASE AREA COMMAND, MacDill Field, Florida, May 31, 1943.

Commanding Officer, 391st Bomb Group, THRU: Commanding Officer, Myrtle Beach Bombing Range, South Carolina.

Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your command.

For the Commanding Officer:

JUN 3 1943

W