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REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

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	Callison, William K.		0-738342	2ndLt.	00	AC.	34	Hone /	
2	Olshak, Raymond F.		0-660389	latit.		AC		None /	
4	Gray. John C.	-	16063406	S/Set.	(50)	AC	3.47	None	
A	Flaherty, Coleman F. Bedgood, Herbert L.	0	13060924	S/Set	20	AC AC	34	None:	
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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 and lowered his landing gear at approximately 1500 feet at an indicated airspeed of 160 MPH. The pilot flew the ship on in and made a normal landing on runway nine. As the ship rolled down the runway and its speed decreased the left gear gave way allowing the left prop to dig into the concrete runway. The increased weight and strain also caused the right gear to fold but the ship had lost its speed and was stopped on the left nacelle doors and belly before the right prop struck the ground.

Investigation brought out the fact the gear mechanisms were functioning normally and hydraulic pressure was normal. The co-pilot dropped the gear and witnesses felt the increased drag as the gear came down. However, the co-pilot and engineer were not certain the gear was down and locked. They both checked the indicator but were not satisfied due to poor visibility. The co-pilot asked the pilot to check the gear indicator but since he was busy landing the ship he didn't check it carefully. The result being the gear was not down and locked which caused the accident. Both the pilot and co-pilot should assume the responsibility of this accident as neither of them made certain the indicator said "wheels down and locked".

Recommendations: That pilot and co-pilot ascertain definitely if gear is down and locked before landing this model of B-26. Also it is my opinion and recommendation some warning signal should be installed on this model to further assist the pilots in ascertaining whether or not the airplane is ready to land.

RECEIVED 1943 MAY 28 AM 9 27 HQ., A.A.F.

THE CHILD

Signature ...

LYLE F. JOHNSTON, Maj., A.C., Aircraft Accident Officer

Date ... May 24, 1943....

. S. COVERNOUSET PRINTING OFFICE 10-08751

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FLIGHT REPORT - ENGINEERING

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RESTRICTED STATEMENT OF VILLIAM V. VOLFE, I-120368 THOSE OFFICE. AC. PILOT LALLO ATTOMATE NO. AT 21 761 574th. 2013 SQ. -591st 2018 GROUP Tampe, Florida New 15, 1945 On the night of May 14, 1945 I was Pilot on a B-26B20 Airplane No. 41-31761. We had just completed our cross-country and were coming in for a landing. We lowered our wheels at an airspeed of approximately 160 M.P.H. and flow the ship up to the point where we let our flaps down. I felt the distinct jur that is made when the wheels go down. At an altitude of 1500 feet, my co-pilot asked my engineer if the wheels were down. I was coming in at an indicated airspeed of 140 M.P.H. and at an altitude of approximately 500ft. My co-pilot asked me to check my indicator. I did, but I made a hurried check due to being on my last approximately 100 feet of approach; I am not certain if the indicator said down or up. The plane made a very smooth landing and settled several times and then it felt as if the left landing gear gave way entirely and our props hit the runnay. I cut the switches in-mediately and held right brake to keep airplane as straight as possible. We used the emergency hatches to leave the airplane. No member of our crew was hurt. Flight Officer, Air (

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM K. CALLISON, 2nd LT, AC, 0-738342 CO-PILOT, B-26B2O AIRPLANE NO. 41-31751 574th BOMBARDMENT SQ., 391st BOMB GROUP

RESTRICTED

Tampa, Florida May 15, 1943

On returning from a routine navigation flight about 2320, May 14, 1943, we had experienced no difficulty and had made a normal traffic pattern. On turning on the final approach at 1500 feet the pilot motioned for wheels down and I placed the landing gear control lever in the complete down and locked position. I felt the added drag on the ship as the wheels came down into the slipstream, but did not check the wheel position indicator until I placed the flap control handle in the down position.

At that time, I thought I could see a spot of red on the wheel position indicator but couldn't be sure they were not locked into position as I was looking at the indicator from an oblique angle. I asked the engineer if he could see if the wheels were locked into position, but he couldn't tell either. I reached down and snapped on the pedestal light and found the hydraulic pressure normal. At this time we were down to about 500-600 feet altitude. I leaned over and told the pilot to check wheel position indicator. He glanced down for an instant and I assumed that they were in proper position as he continued on his landing approach. At this time I proceeded to follow thru on the controls for the landing as we were at about 50-100 feet altitude.

The Pilot made a good landing and after rolling down runway for a short distance and slowing to about 80 M.P.H., I noticed the plane settle slowly and soon afterwards the left propeller started hitting the runway.

As the left gear collapsed the plane swerved to the left and stopped just off the left side of the runway. I used the Co-pilot's emergency hatch for escape. No one was injured.

William K. Callison
2nd Lt., Air Corps.,
Co-pilot.

STATEMENT OF S/SGT. JOHN C. GRAY ASN 16063406 RADIOMAN, B-26B2O, AIRPLANE NO. 41-31751 574th BOMBARDMENT SQ. 391st BOMB GP

Tampa, Florida May 15, 1943

I was at my station a few minutes before the landing was made. The pilot told me to reel in my trailing wire antenna. I did so. Then I fastened my safety belt which I always do on landing and take offs. I then sat there and waited.

After the wheels touched the ground I heard a loud and broken screeching and noticed sparks flying by outside of the window of the compartment.

We continued down the runway for a short way and then stopped, just after we swerved to the left. When the plane stopped I got out of it as soon as I could, through the escape hatch. I then went to the tail to assist the tail gunner but he had already gotten out by himself.

JOHN C. GRAY, 16063406 s/Sgt., 574th Bm Sq. 391st Bm Gp.

STATEMENT OF RAYMOND F. OLSHAK, 1st LT., AC. 0-660389 NAVIGATOR, B-26B20. AIRPLANE NO. 41-31751 574th BOWBARDMENT SQ. 391st BOWB GROUP

RESTRICTED

Tampa, Florida Nay 15, 1943

Having seen nothing during the time of landing of our airplane, I can tell only of what I felt.

I knew we were coming in for a landing from the feel of the ship: slower speed, sound of wind, and engines. Otherwise, I was busy with my navigator's log. All seemed normal when the wheels touched the ground, the left wheel seemed to touch first and the ship gave a corresponding lurch. A few seconds later, I'm not sure how much later, it felt as if our brakes were suddenly jammed on. There was a screeching sound which lasted a second or two, stopped and started again. This sound was repeated about six or seven times, until it became a steady sound and I could feel the ship swerve and stop.

We stopped easily and all the crew left the ship through the emergency exits. I cleared through the pilots' emergency exit.

> RAYMOND F. OLSHAK lst Lt., Air Corps., Navigator.

STATEMENT OF S/SGT. COLEMAN F. FLAHERTY, ASN 13060924
ENGINEER-GUNNER, B-26B20, AIRPLANE NO 41-31751
574th BOMBARDMENT SQ., 391st BOMB GROUP

Tampa, Florida May 15. 1943

At the start of our final approach at 1500 feet the Co-pilot lowered landing gear handle and I felt the wheels go down as it jerked the ship and heard the click of the nose wheel locking in place.

I had been watching the engine instruments when the Co-pilot motioned to me and told me to look at the wheel position indicator to see if it read "down and locked" as he couldn't see very well himself. I looked and they seemed to be down although couldn't see the gauge too well myself.

The I saw the Co-pilot tapping the Pilot and motioning towards the gauge. As we came near to leveling out, I stepped back to the navigator's compartment (as is usual for me). We came in normally, levelled off, and landed the ship. We rode smoothly and I could feel the wheels touch and then released as we continued down the runway. We rode for a while, then the left side started sinking and sparks began to fly. The pilot turned off the master switch and magneto and battery switches.

We came to a stop and I started to open the navigator's hatch while the others started out the Pilot's escape hatch. No one was hurt.

COLEMAN F. FLAHERTY, 13060924 S/Sgt 574th Bm Sq., 391st Bm Gp.

STATEMENT OF STATE SOT. HERBERT L. HEDGOOD A.S.N. 6927505
TAIL GUILLE, ROS. RO. ALEXAND NO. 41-31751
574th. ROW SQ. SSLat. ROW GOOD

Sampa Florida Nay 15 1948

I had moved from the gumner's position to just to the rear of the FUE-FUE as customery on landings and take offs. The first I knew of our landing was a joit and a seraping noise which three off sparks. By this I knew that we were on the belly of the ship. As soon as possible I braced myself and opened the waist window on my right. The fire extinguisher was secured into place. After the plane stopped I crawled through the waist window and got away from the ship. I then went around to the front to see if everyone was out. I was not hurt in any way.

Merher L. MEDGOOD 6927805 8/8gt. 574th Bomb \$4.,391st.6p.

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

TAMPA, FLORIDA

In reply refer to: 000.95

SUBJECT: Technical Report of Aircraft Accident.

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

Inclosed herewith is AAF Form No. 14 covering aircraft accident occurring at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, May 14, 1945, involving B-26B2O airplane No. 41-31751, pilot - F/O WILLIAM W. WOLFE, AC 574th Bombardment Squadron, 391st Bomb Group, MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

For the Area Commander:

1 Incl: Technical Report.

PESTRICTED

ACCIDENT REPORT

Ney 14, 1943

Type of airplane......B-26B20 Damage to plane......Vashed out left landing gear, left prop and probable damage to underside of fuselage, resulting from dragging on cement.

Injury to Personnel...... Mone

Location..... 9

Time......2330

Weather at time of accident...........Contact

Remarks:

7/0 Volfe in making a normal landing resulted in the above damage to his plane. Probably cause either collapse of landing gear or gear not fully down and booked.

Quards were placed and pictures taken of the plane.

Report of this accident made by 391st Bomb Group.

Airdrome Officer of the Day

ARMY AIR FORCES HEADQUARTERS 624 SUB-DEPOT

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING OFFICER

U-3

IN REPLY REFER TO

452.1-43

MACDILL FIELD, TAMPA, FLORIDA

May 19, 1943

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

1. The following parts were damaged on B-26B20MA airplane #41-31751 due to collapse of left and right main landing gears, while landing:

- a. Skin partly gound off and buckled on bottom of fuselage from station no. 434 1/4 to station no. 670 1/2.
- b. Formers and keel partly gound off and buckled from station no. 447 1/4 to station no. 661 1/2.
- c. Left propeller, all four blades damaged beyond repair.
- d. Left engine, sudden stoppage of propeller.
- e. Left main gear outboard nacelle door damaged beyond repair.
- f. Two main landing gear tires, 49 X 1700 X 20, 12 ply.

IRVIN F. PYER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Sub-Depot Engineering Officer.

DETACHMENT FOURTH WEATHER SQUADRON MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida

21, 1943.

SUBJECT: Macmill Field Weather, May 14, 1943.

20 : Base Operations Officer, McDill Field, Florida.

1. The general weather conditions in the vicinity of MacMill Field, during the night of May 14-15, 1943, were clear sky, visibility seven (7) to ten (10) miles, surface wind easterly about the (10) miles per hour.

2. The following are certified to be true copies of the original MacDill Field weather observations taken on the time shown:

MAYON, 1943 TIME (EWT)

2130 0 163/82/64-410/001

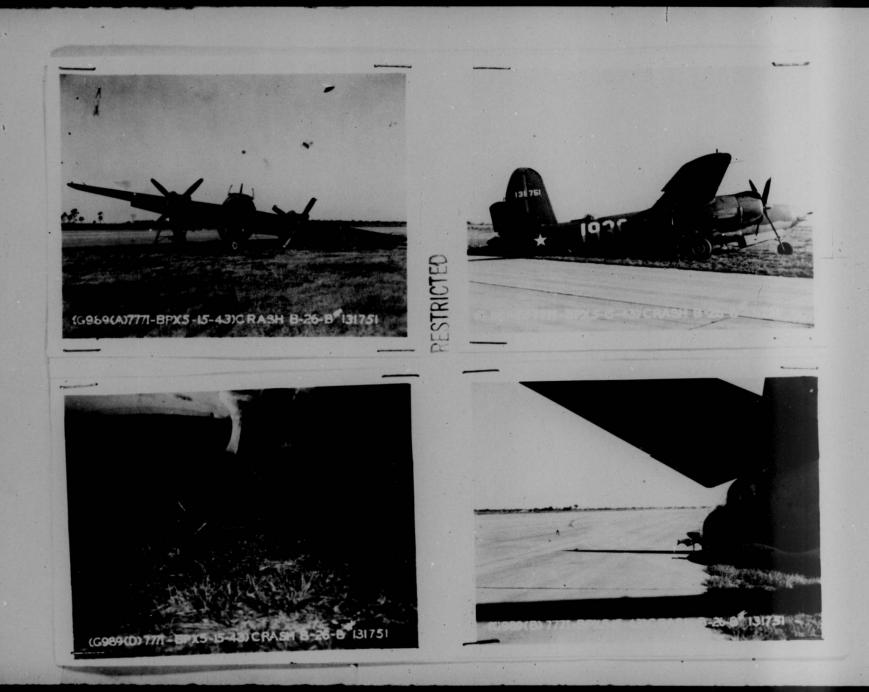
2230 0 166/80/65-15/002

2330 0 173/78/66-10/004

MAY 15, 1943 TIME (EWT)

0030 0 173/76/67-10/004

PAUL E. RUMBEL, Captain, Air Corps, Station Weather Officer.



HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

For Action For Info C For File

		DATE MAY 15, 1943			
x T. W. X.	TELEGRAM	RADIO			
INCOMING .			100		

MAGDILL FIELD FLA 151535Z OP 92

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