

Robert Davis: One morning I was upstairs in the operations office in the hangar while the crew chiefs and radio men were readying the aircraft for the days flying. The P-51s were lined up alongside the hangar and the Merlin engines were roaring as they were being checked out. Suddenly there was a terrific noise outside and as I looked out the window I saw a piece of propeller fly by and a P-51 turn around and crash into another P-51. Apparently the brakes had not been set before run up and the plane jumped the wheel chocks and swung into the other airplane. A radio man crouching on the wing of the second plane escaped injury.

On another occasion several P-51s were sent out on a training mission when one radioed the base tower reporting an emergency. He soon landed with the tip of a pine tree jammed into the air scoop. I imagine he had some explaining to do to Captain Jacobson.

Another pilot had trouble lowering his landing gear to the locked position. He was known in the squadron as a hot pilot. And as he made several passes past the tower so they could check the position of the landing gear we could see him in the cockpit wearing his 50 mission flight cap with a cigar clamped between his teeth. After several dives and barrel rolls the landing gear locked into place and all was well.