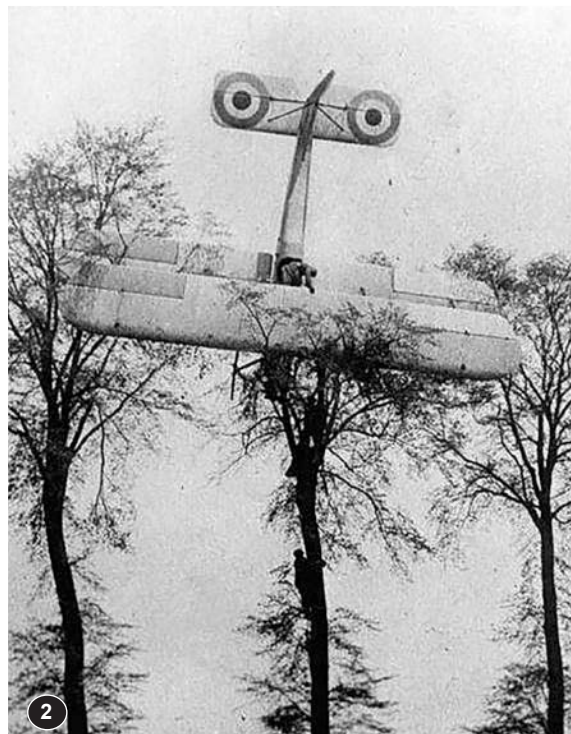
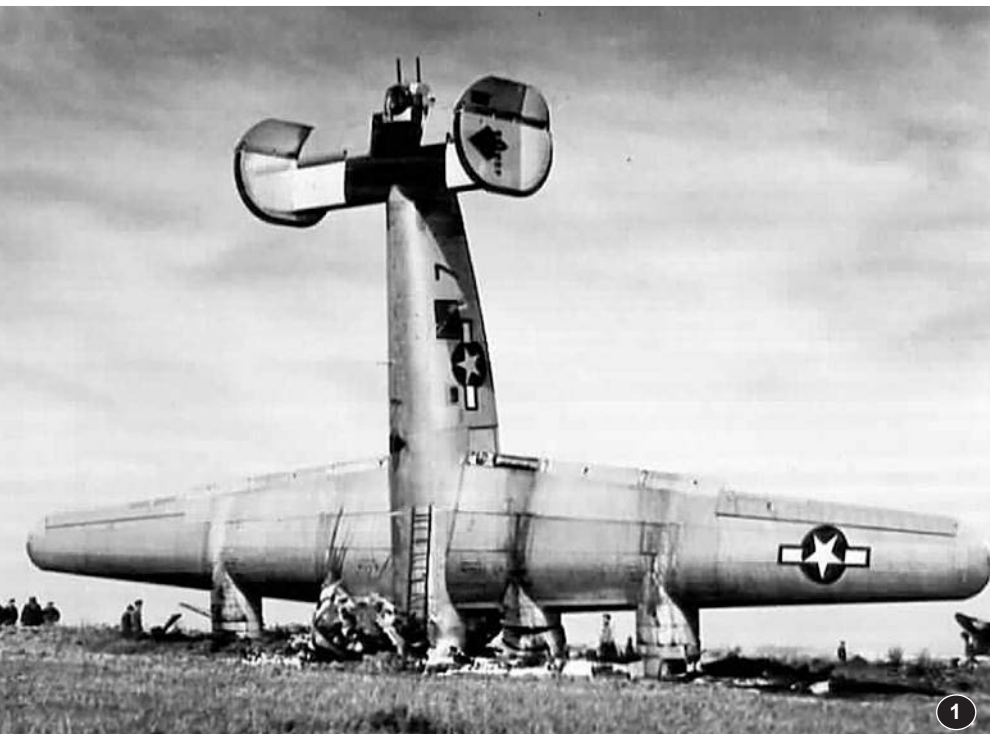


## Head First



1: US bomber 2: French fighter 3: German fighter

Manned, powered, controlled, heavier-than-air flight has been going on for 111 years, so you would expect that aircraft would wind up in strange positions. The nose-down crash is a case in point. The first image on this page records the deadly crash, on takeoff, of a USAAF B-24 Liberator on April 12, 1945, at San Giovanni Field in Italy. It was part of the 740th Bomb Squadron. Six of the 10 crew members died; the bomber ended up perched on its nose. The image above right shows a similar orientation. In 1915, a World War I French pilot made an emergency landing near Brussels, plunging head first into a tall tree. (Note the men climbing to help.) The third image, also from World War I, captures a trio of German soldiers inspecting an upended German biplane in an open field. How it came to be in that position is not recorded.

