

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

(1) Place Freeman Army Air Field (2) Date April 21, 1942 Time 1420Z
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model AT-10BH (5) A. F. No. 41-26982 (6) Station Freeman Army Air Fld.
 Organization: (7) AAFSTC FTS (8) AFI (9) 1080th TFFT Sqn.
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (AFI Station)

PERSONNEL

DUTY	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
SP	Sutters, Thomas J.	SP	3210954	A/C	62	AAF	AAFSTC	None	No
SC	Stevens, Lawrence G.	SP	12034863	A/C	62	AAF	AAFSTC	None	No



RECEIVED
NO. AAF
OF FLYING

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Sutters, Thomas J. (21) 32019054 (22) A/C (23) 62 (24) AAF
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) AAFSTC (26) FTS (27) 1080th TFFT (A/C Det) Freeman AAF
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (28) AAFSTC (29) FTS (30) 1080th TFFT (A/C Det) Freeman AAF
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) A/R (34) --- Present rating (35) --- (36) --- Instrument rating (37) ---
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type 23:45 (42) Instrument time last 6 months Not involved
 (39) This model 23:45 (43) Instrument time last 30 days "
 (40) Last 90 days 55:09 (44) Night time last 6 months "
 (41) Total 156:28 (45) Night time last 30 days "

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <u>Minor</u>	<u>Pitot Assy, Engine Cowls</u>
(47) Engine(s) <u>Minor/Minor</u>	<u>Sudden Stoppage</u>
(48) Propeller(s) <u>M 4 M</u>	<u>Major Damage</u>

(50) Weather at the time of accident Estimated 2000 ft. overcast-visibility 6 mi. in haze.

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
 (52) Cleared from Freeman AAF (53) To Local (54) Kind of clearance Contact

(55) Pilot's mission Local student training.

(56) Nature of accident Take-off accident - Wheels retracted during take-off.

(57) Cause of accident Material failure - landing gear switch guard broken.


DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Upon taking-off from Freeman Army Air Field, A/C T. J. Sutters accidentally retracted landing gear causing aircraft to fall on its belly. This accident was caused by the partial unhinging of the landing gear switch guard which caught under the landing gear switch after A/C Sutters had checked his landing gear and when the cowl flaps were opened the landing gear switch guard was struck by A/C Sutters hand and the switch moved to the "up" position. Because his hand was gloved, A/C Sutters did not feel the movement of the switch.

Landing gear switches in all AT 10 aircraft assigned to this field are being moved.

Signature


W. E. PERSONS, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,

Aircraft Accident Officer.

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