

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

Accident No: 17

43-4-25-19  
066  
4

Indiana

(1) Place: Freeman Army Air Field, Seymour, (2) Date: April 25, 1943 (3) Time: 1230 Z  
 Aircraft: (4) Type and tail no.: AT-10BH (5) A/C No.: 41-26884 (6) Station: Freeman Army Air Field  
 Organization: (7) AAFSTC (8) J.S. S. E. T. (9) Hq & Hq Sqdn, 35th TART Grp.

PERSONNEL

Serial	NAME (Last name first)	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)
57 SP	Sharpless, Thomas F.	SP14045504	A/C	(62)	A.C.	AAFSTC	None	No
33 SC	Sheffield, Wendell W.	SP14065634	A/C	(62)	A.C.	AAFSTC	None	No

MAY 7 43 AM



RECEIVED  
40. AAF, DIRECTOR  
OF FLYING SAFETY

PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Sharpless Thomas F. (21) 4045504 (22) A/C (23) 62 (24) A.C.  
 Assigned (25) AAFSTC (26) J.S. S. E. T. (27) Hq & Hq Sqdn, 35th TART Grp (A/O Det)  
 Attached for flying (28) AAFSTC (29) J.S. S. E. T. (30) Hq & Hq Sqdn, 35th TART Grp (A/O Det)  
 Original rating (33) N/R (34) - Present rating (35) - (36) - Instrument rating (37) -

7/1/43  
5-10-43

First Prior Rating (at the time of this accident):  
 (38) This type: 33.5 (42) Instrument time last 6 months: Not Involved  
 (39) This model: 33.5 (43) Instrument time last 30 days: " "  
 (40) Last 90 days: 105.9 (44) Night time last 6 months: " "  
 (41) Total: 166.7 (45) Night time last 30 days: " "

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS

(46) Aircraft: Minor  
 (47) Engines: Minor Minor See Attached List.  
 (48) Propellers: M4 M4

(49) Weather at time of accident: CAVU

(51) Was the pilot flying in accordance with the time of accident: No.  
 (52) Cleared from: Freeman A.A. Field Effingham-Terre Haute-Freeman. (53) Kind of clearance: Contact.  
 (54) Pilot's mission: Student Navigation Training.

Take-Off - Wheels retracted during Take-Off.

NG-SH-2N  
06-34-50

(55) Cause of accident: Pilot error - Carelessness.

100% Pilot error (Carelessness)

CG-SC-2C  
05-34-17

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

When taking off for a student navigation flight, A/C Thomas F. Sharpless carelessly placed the landing gear switch in the "up" position, causing the gear to retract the wheels before flying speed had been attained, and the aircraft to fall on it's belly.

Landing gear switches are being moved to a more suitable place in the cockpit on all AT-10BH Aircraft assigned to this station, and all personnel are being reimpressed with the necessity for a careful and accurate cockpit check before take-off.

Signature



(Investigating Officer)

W. E. PERSONS, JR.

Major, Air Corps,

Aircraft Accident Officer.

Date

5411