

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

034 ACCIDENT NO. *Radio*
43-5-1743
Case 951

REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Freeman Army Air Field

May 17, 1943

(1) Tail No. *AT-108H* (2) *41-27075* Freeman Army Airfield
AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model *AA7STO* (5) A. F. *35th T.N.F.T.* (6) *Station & Hq. Sqdn.*
Organization: (7) *FT* (8) *35 AFT* (9) *HOC*
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

OFFICER	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	REF ID NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	TYPE OF PARACHUTE
<i>37</i>	Costello, Francis M.	<i>1ST</i>	<i>O-446630</i>	<i>2nd Lt.</i>	<i>41 141</i>	<i>AGC.</i>	<i>AA7STO</i>	<i>Fatal</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>33</i>	Davis, Green R., Jr.	<i>2ND</i>	<i>O-299699</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>41 41</i>	<i>Inf. Res.</i>	<i>AA7STO</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>No</i>

MAY 25 1943 AM



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SAFETY

Costello Francis PILOT CHARGE *O-446630* OCCIDENT 2nd Lt. 41 A.O.

(20) (Last name) *AA7STO* (Middle initials) *35th T.N.F.T.* (Rank) *Hq. & Hq. Sqdn.* (Personnel class) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Assigned (25) *F.T.S.* (26) *35 AFT* (28) *Station & Hq. Sqdn.* (29) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Attached for flying (29) *AA7STO* (31) *Hq. & Hq. Sqdn.* (32) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Original rating (33) *163* Present rating (35) *10.5* Instrument rating (37) *Not involved*
First Flight Hours:
(at the time of this accident) *AT-108H* 10.5 (42) Instrument time last 6 months *Not involved*
(1) This type *AT-108H* 10.5 (43) Instrument time last 30 days *Not involved*
(2) This model 87.1 (44) Night time last 6 months *Not involved*
(3) Last 90 days 150.9 (45) Night time last 30 days *Not involved*
(4) Total

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft <i>51 51</i>	<i>See attached list</i>
(47) Engine(s) <i>51 51</i>	
(48) Propeller(s) <i>51 51</i>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident *CAVU 00*

(51) Was the pilot flying *Freeman A.A. Fld.* at the time of accident *Local* *No* *Contact 0*

(52) Cleared from *Local student training.* (53) To *Local student training.* (54) Kind of clearance

(55) Pilot's mission *71*

(56) Nature of accident *Collision with object other than aircraft i.e. Ground.*

(57) Cause of accident *Spun in - Cause undetermined.*
100% undetermined 37 93 00

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U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

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Organization: (7) *FT* (8) *35 AFT* (9) *HOC*
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

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OFFICER	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	REF ID NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULT TO PERSONNEL	TYPE OF PARACHUTE
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<i>33</i>	Davis, Green R., Jr.	<i>2ND</i>	<i>O-299699</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>41 41</i>	<i>Inf. Res.</i>	<i>AA7STO</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>No</i>

MAY 25 1943 AM



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OFFICE OF THE SAFETY

20. Pilot in Charge: *Costello Francis* (21) *35th T.B.F.T.* (22) *Hq. & Hq. Sqdn.* (23) *AA7STO* (24) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Assigned (25) *F.T.S.* (26) *35 AFT* (27) *HOC* (28) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Attached for flying (29) *FT* (30) *35 AFT* (31) *HOC* (32) *Freeman A.A. Fld.*
Original rating (33) *153* Present rating (35) *10.5* Instrument rating (37) *Not involved*
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(47) Engine(s) <i>51 51</i>	
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(50) Weather at the time of accident *CAVU 00*
(51) Was the pilot flying *Freeman A.A. Fld.* at the time of accident? *Local*
(52) Cleared from *Local student training.* (53) To *Local* (54) Kind of clearance *Local*
(55) Pilot's mission *71*
(56) Nature of accident *Collision with object other than aircraft i.e. Ground.*
(57) Cause of accident *Spun in - Cause undetermined.*
100% undetermined 37 93 00

Accident No. 43-5-17-2

Date

Checked by [Signature] 5-26-43

Analyzed by R. L. 5-27-43

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes Copy for Wright Field
Attention Colonel Chapman
possible structural failure

AUG 12 1943

DF

(Nature Group) Spin & stalls at low
altitude
(Specific Nature) Engine performance
undetermined
(Underlying Nature) Caught fire

(Cause Group) Undetermined
(Specific Cause) No definite conclusions
possible although probable
cause may be deduced
(Underlying Cause) Undetermined

Accident No. 43-5-17-3

Date

Checked by [Signature] 5-26-43

Analyzed by R. L. 5-27-43

Copied for Wright
Field by

Notes Copy for Wright Field
Attention Colonel Chapman
possible structural failure

AUG 12 1943

DF

{ Nature Group Spin & stalls at low
altitude
{ Specific Nature Engine performance
undetermined
{ Underlying Nature Caught fire

{ Cause Group Undetermined
{ Specific Cause No definite conclusions
possible although probable
cause may be deduced
{ Underlying Cause Undetermined

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

2nd Lt. Francis M. Costello together with Captain R. G. Davis, both student Pilots, took off on a local student training flight. Immediately after leaving the ground the aircraft went into a steep climb, stalling out and spinning into the ground. Immediately upon striking the ground the aircraft burst into flames. Captain Davis was able to extricate himself from the wreckage, but even after several attempts was unable to remove Lt. Costello from the airplane.

Statements of witnesses indicate either a stabilizer stall or that the flight controls were locked on take-off, however, Captain Davis states that he personally checked the stabilizer and that he does not remember whether or not the flight controls were unlocked before take-off. Examination of the wreckage gives no indication that the controls were locked and in view of this contradictory evidence the Aircraft Accident Committee is unable to determine the cause of the accident.



RECEIVED
NO. 144 DIRECTOR
OF FLIGHTS BUREAU

SIGNATURE
(Investigating Officer)
V. E. PERSONS, JR.,
.....
Major, Air Corps,
.....
Aircraft Accident Officer.
.....

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RECEIVED
NO. 100
DIRECTOR
OF FLIGHT SAFETY

.....
SIGNATURE
(Investigating Officer)
V. E. PERSONS, JR.,
.....
Major, Air Corps,
.....
Aircraft Accident Officer.
.....

May 17, 1948

We started to take off and were climbing straight ahead about 50 feet above the runway. I happened to notice the Pilot wrestling with the Controls. I got hold of the Controls but they seemed to be locked. We started to come in in sort of a peel-off position. We hit the runway. As soon as I got out and cleared the plane I went back in and tried to get the Pilot out. The flames were on his side of the plane.

~~We had gone through the normal check before take-off. We did not pull up the wheels. At first the take-off seemed like it was alright but when I noticed that our climb was unusually steep I knew that something was wrong.~~

I believe I could move the rudders but I am not sure. I could not get the nose down. I remember distinctly checking the tabs.

I had made a flight in this ship before and was up for about two (2) hours and twenty (20) minutes. Everything was alright at this time.

GREEN E. DAVIS, JR.
Captain, Air Corps
ASN C-889600

May 17, 1945

The plane took off and climbed very steep about 150 to 200 feet off the ground. It appeared that the plane stalled, left wing dropped and plane made a dive turn to the left onto the ground.

He took off from intersection seven (7) South on the North-South runway. The left wing hit first and started burning immediately. The occupant in the left got out of the plane and made an attempt to get in the right side probably to get the occupant in the right side out.

Charles G. Grier, Jr.
CHARLES (HMI) GRIER, JR.
1st Lt., Air Corps
ASN 0703992

May 17, 1943

I was on the approach and when I saw this ship it was in a pretty steep climb and all of a sudden it just seemed as though the left engine cut out and he started towards the ground. It seemed as though he was in about a 45° climb. I noticed no fire before he hit the ground, but just about the time it hit it was on fire. The plane did not look like it had exploded, but it looked like the fire had come from the left wing.

Robert S. Barker

ROBERT S. BARKER

1st Lt., Air Corps

ASN 0789040

May 17, 1945

I was standing out in front of Operations looking up when I saw a ship overhead. It looked like it was in trouble. The ship banked to the left and came down in flames. I did not see anyone climb out of the ship after it had landed.

Edward Epstein

EDWARD (M1) EPSTEIN
Corporal, Air Corps
ASN 33143176

May 17, 1943

I saw the plane taking off, it made a perfect take-off until it got about 250 feet then started into a steep climb. The plane tried to turn and glide back in and when it did it started towards the ground. When the plane hit one of the boys got out and ran around to the right side and tried about three (3) times to get the other person out before he gave up. The plane burst into flames just as it hit the ground.

Arthur M. Meagher

ARTHUR M. MEAGHER
Pvt., Air Corps
ASN 39447810

May 17, 1943

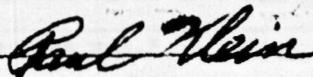
Lt. Gruber called that there was a plane crashing. I looked out and the ship was approximately 150 to 200 feet in the air at the time I saw it, over the South end of the North-South runway. The plane seemed to stall and fall off to the left, crashing left wing first. The plane immediately burst into flames as one man was seen to crawl out. All stations were notified by both teletype and telephone.

James S. Welby

JAMES S. WELBY
S/Sgt, Air Corps
ASN 13010818

May 17, 1943

I was in Operators position in the Tower. The plane took off and I happened to notice it in take-off position while taking off. It went approximately 300 yards and immediately took off the ground and started into a steep climb. As I saw him going up steep I brought it to the attention of the Control Officer. He was going up straight and, seemed to be about 200 feet off the runway, he immediately made a left hand turn and started to fall, when I saw that I called the crash truck and ambulance and Sgt. Welty notified all other stations.



PAUL KLEIN
Pvt., Air Corps
ASN 13155966

May 17, 1943

We heard the crash and saw the plane. I got on top of the crash truck and put on an asbestos suit while the driver was driving to the plane. I went into the plane at the back of the Pilot's seat. The flames were hitting me in the face and I could not locate the Pilot. I backed out for air and the Colonel, who was standing by, asked me if I had gotten the man out and I said, "No Sir, I could not see the man." I lifted my head and saw the man; tried to pull him out but he was wedged in so that I could not get him out. Finally, with the help of another man, we got the injured out of the plane.

Joseph A. Hollis
JOSEPH A. HOLLIS
Fire Fighter
Station No. 5.

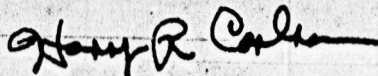
WAR DEPARTMENT
366TH SUB DEPOT
Seymour, Indiana

May 16, 1943

SUBJECT: Aircraft Accident Report

TO: Operations Officer, Freeman Army Air Field, Seymour, Indiana.

1. Aircraft AT10-BH, Army Air Forces serial number 41-27095, damaged in accident on May 17, 1943, was found to be completely washed out.



**Harry R. Carlson,
Captain, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer**

OFFICE OF SCHOOL OPERATIONS OFFICER
 Freeman Army Air Field
 Seymour, Indiana

(CROSS COUNTRY ORDERS)

May 17, 1943

EXTRACT

6

In accordance with the provisions of Training Memorandum No. 50-1-1 dated February 1, 1943, the following missions will be flown this date.

AIRPLANE TYPE NUMBER	PILOT	Co-Pilot XXXXXXXX	TO	FROM	VIA	RETURN VIA	FOR		MISSION
							DT	AT	
AT-10 NH 41-27095	Costello, Davis, G.R. F.M.2nd. Lt. Capt. (Student Officer)	Local Capt. (Student Officer)						0945	T

William C. King
 WILLIAM C. KING,
 Capt. Air Corps,
 School Operations Officer.

ARMY AIR FORCES

For Action AIU
For Info. CS
For File M&R

HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE 5-18-43

T. W. X.

TELEGRAM

RADIO

INCOMING

MESSAGE NO. MSG 26

~~INDEX~~ MSG 26 ARL 234 MAY 18/43

MASTER COPY

FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD IND MAY 17 1835Z ABH

CG AAF WASHINGTON D C

17 MAY 0951 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD SEYMOUR INDIANA PILOT FRANCIS M.
COSTELLO 2nd LT ORC AVN STUDENT FTC FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD INDIANA
SPIN UNDETERMINED PILOT FATAL CO-PILOT GREEN R DAVIS JR CAPTAIN-ORC
AVN-STUDENT FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD LACERATIONS AND MINOR BURNS LOCAL
FLIGHT STUDENT TRAINING CAVU 41-27095 AT-10BH FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD
INDIANA COMPLETE WRECK UNDETERMINED SALVAGE NONE END SIPA

RUNDQUIST FAAF SEYMOUR INDIANA

RECD AAF SEYMOUR INDIANA

RECD IN AAF MSG CENT ~~181259~~

171850Z

RECD BY AFAC 181259 EWT

RELEASED TO TX 181400 EWT

181504 EWT

13-5-17-3
1/1

ARMY AIR FORCES

For Action ATU ✓
For Info. CS
For File M&R

HEADQUARTERS FLIGHT CONTROL COMMAND

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

5/17/43

DATE _____

T. W. X.

TELEGRAM

RADIO

INCOMING
MESSAGE NO.

MSG 25 ARL 234 MAY 17/43

SEYMOUR IND 466 FREMANF ARMY AIR FIELD MAY 17 1943

CG AAF WASHINGTON D C

MAY 17 1943 0951 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD F VOUR IND UNKNOWN
CRASHED AND BURNED ON TAKE OFF UNKNOWN TRAINING NO FACTOR 41-27095
AT-10BG FREMAN ARMY AIR FIELD SEYMOUR COMPLETE LOST UNDETERMINED
SURVEY NONE YES

HMRUNDQUIST

MASTER COPY

RECD IN AAF MSG CENT 171616Z

RECD BY AAFFC 171454 EWT

RELEASED TO TWX 171500 EWT

MH 1 630 EWT

43-5-17-3
0/4

2 SETOUR IND 466 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD MAY 17 1943

COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON D C

MAY 17 1943 0951 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD SETOUR IND UNKNOWN CRASHED AND
BURNED ON TAKE OFF UNKNOWN TRAINING NO FACTOR 41-27095-AT-1080 FREEMAN
ARMY AIR FIELD SETOUR COMPLETE (OST UNDETERMINED SURVEY NONE YES

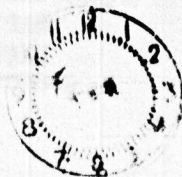
HRRJNDJUIST

RECD IN AAF MSG CRT: 171616Z
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AFDFS (4cys)	AFHSC
AFYAS	AFDMA
AFATG	AFRTW (2cys)
AFDBI-2	

MAY 20 43 AM



RECEIVED
HQ. AAF, WASHINGTON
DIR. FLYING SAFETY

HQ. A.A.F.
DIR. FLYING SAFETY

1943 MAY 17 PM 2 55

RECEIVED

5
TLS1 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD IND MAY 17 1835Z ABH

COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY FORCES WASHINGTON D C

17 MAY 0951 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD SEYHOUR INDIANA PILOT FRANCIS M COSTELLO

2ND LT ORG AVN STUDENT PTC FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD INDIANA SPIN UNDETERMINED

PILOT FATAL CO-PILOT GREEN R DAVIS JR CAPTAIN ORG AVN STUDENT FREEMAN ARMY

AIR FIELD LACERATIONS AND MINOR BURNS LOCAL FLIGHT STUDENT TRAINING CAVU 41-27095

AT-10BH FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD INDIANA COMPLETE WRECK UNDETERMINED SALVAGE NONE

END SIPA

HUNDQJST FALF SEYHOUR INDIANA

RECD IN A.F MESC CENT: 171850Z

TWX 1400, 15

MAY 20 73 AM

DISTRIBUTION

AFPIP (3cys)

AFDPS (4cys)

AFTAS

AFATC

AFDBS-2

AFBFO

AFMBC

AFINA

AFRTW (2cys)

AFTAG



RECEIVED
DIRECTOR
FLYING SAFETY

ATTN L

DIR. FLYING SAFETY
HQ. A.A.F.

1953 MAY 18 PM 12 58

RECEIVED

13-5-17-3

F-14m

HEADQUARTERS
Army Air Forces Advanced Flying School
Office of the Post Signal Officer
Seymour, Indiana

Release

OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH BLANKS

Date MAY 17, 1953

FROM : HEADQUARTERS, FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD, SEYMOUR, INDIANA.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON D C

MESSAGE: 17 MAY 0951 FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD SEYMOUR INDIANA PILOT
FRANCIS M COSTELLO 2ND LT ORG AVN STUDENT FTC FREEMAN ARMY AIR
FIELD INDIANA SPIN UNDETERMINED PILOT FATAL CO-PILOT
GREEN R DAVIS JR CAPTAIN ORG AVN STUDENT FREEMAN ARMY AIR
FIELD LACERATIONS AND MINOR BURNS LOCAL FLIGHT STUDENT
TRAINING GAVU 41-27095 AT-108H FREEMAN ARMY AIR FIELD
INDIANA COMPLETE WRECK UNDETERMINED SALVAGE NONE ABANDONED
END SIPA

RUNDQUIST FAF SEYMOUR IND

RECEIVED
MAY 19 PM 3 35
HQ: A.A.F.
FLYING SAFETY

F-14

I certify the above is official government business.

CONFIRMATION COPY

R. BRANNON,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

R. BRANNON
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant.

006597

RTG

43-5-17-3