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ACCIDENT No. 40

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

11-8-11-37  
7

(1) Place: Freeman Field, Seymour, Indiana (2) Date: 11 August 1943 (3) Time: 0215Z  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model: AT-10.BH (5) A. F. No.: 41-27326 (6) Station: Freeman A. Field  
 Organization: (7) AAFSETC (8) (Group): 1079th TEST Squadron (9) (Squadron):

F75 PERSONNEL 111 111 5173

DUY	NAME (Last name) (First name)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	STATUS TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
	S. McGuff, G. J.	P	0-805944	2nd Lt.	01	A.C.	AAFSETC	None	No
	SD Grooms, J. (NMI)	S	14115076	A/C	69	A.C.	AAFSETC	None	No



PILOT CHARGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Grooms Jack (NMI) (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial)  
 (21) 14115076 (Serial number)  
 (22) A/C (Rank)  
 (23) 62 (Personnel class)  
 (24) A.C. (Branch)  
 Assigned (25) AAFSETC (1079th TEST Sqn.) (Station)  
 Attached for flying (29) AAFSETC (1079th TEST Sqn.) (Station)  
 Original rating (33) None (Rating)  
 Instrument rating (37) 55-27-23-101 (Date)

First Pilot Hour (at the time of this accident):  
 (35) This type: 02:00 (38) Instrument time last 6 months: Not involved  
 (36) This model: 02:00 (39) Instrument time last 30 days: Not involved  
 (37) Last 90 days: 02:00 (40) Night time last 6 months: 19:55  
 (38) Total: 02:00 (41) Night time last 30 days: 5:35

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

(42) Aircraft: 3 -  
 (43) Engine: 1 -  
 (44) Propellers: 1 -  
 See attached list.

(45) Weather at time of accident: Scattered 8000, Visibility 9 mi. Wind ENE 3 mph.

(46) Was the pilot... No  
 (47) Cleared from Freeman Field: Franklin  
 (48) Pilot's mission: Training, formation flying.

(49) Collision in air with object other than aircraft.

(50) Cause of accident: Pilot error on the part of the element leader in leading the formation too low.

(51) Has form... been submitted? No.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

A/C Grooms, J. (NMI), Student Pilot, and 2nd Lt. McGuff, G. J., Instructor, flying AT-10-BI A.F. No. 41-27326 took off on a formation flight to the city of Franklin, Indiana on the night of the 11th of August from Freeman Field. Lt. McGuff's ship was flying on the left wing of the lead ship in the formation. The formation flight was ordered to pass over the city of Franklin, Indiana at an altitude of about 1000 feet. The purpose of this flight was a planned review to aid in enlistment of Aviation Cadets. The lead ship, flown by 2nd Lt. Howard L. Smith, lead the formation over the city of Franklin, Indiana at a very low altitude. While passing over the city, Lt. McGuff's ship collided with a tree tearing off about two and one-half (2½) feet of the right wing tip.

Lt. McGuff immediately left the formation, climbed to a higher altitude, and checked the damage to his ship. Finding that the flying characteristics of the ship were normal Lt. McGuff flew the ship back to Freeman Field and made a successful landing with no further damage to the ship or personnel.

The responsibility of the accident rests with the formation leader, Lt. Smith, in that he lead the formation over the area at too low an altitude.

The altitude of similar formation flights in the future will be strictly enforced.

5 Incl.

- Incl. #1-Pilot Statement
- Incl. #2-Co-Pilot Statement
- Incl. #3-Damaged Parts List
- Incl. #4-AAF Form #1
- Incl. #5-AAF Form #1-A.

Signature

*Robert J. DuChaine*  
Investigating Officer

.....ROBERT J. DU CHAINE,

.....Captain, Air Corps,

.....Aircraft Accident Officer.

Date 14 August 1943