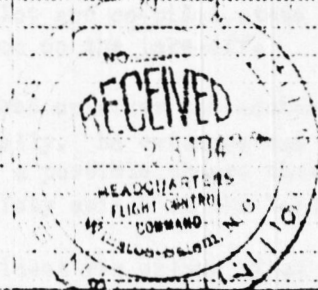


WAR DEPARTMENT  
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES  
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

(1) Place Freeman Army Air Field, Seymour, Indiana (2) Date 9 September (3) Time 1417Z  
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model AT-10BH (5) A. F. No. 41-26854 (6) Station Freeman Army Air Field  
 Organization: (7) AAFETC (8) 28th Wing (9) 1080th TEFTS  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DUTY (10)	NAME (Last name first) (11)	RATING (12)	SERIAL NO. (13)	RANK (14)	PERSONNEL CLASS (15)	BRANCH (16)	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND (17)	RESULT TO PERSONNEL (18)	USE OF PARACHUTE (19)
SP	Simonton, N. A.	-	14094094	A/C	62	A.C.	AAFETC	None	No
SC	Smith, R. D.	-	19022617	A/C	62	A.C.	AAFETC	None	No



(20) Simonton Norman A. (21) 14094094 (22) A/C (23) 62 (24) A.C.  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)  
 Assigned (25) AAFETC (26) 28th Wing (27) 1080th TEFTS (28) Freeman Field  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Attached for flying (29) AAFETC (30) 28th Wing (31) 1080th TEFTS (32) Freeman Field  
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)  
 Original rating (33) - (34) - Present rating (35) - (36) - Instrument rating (37) -  
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type... 31:30 (42) Instrument time last 6 months... Not Involved  
 (39) This model... 31:30 (43) Instrument time last 30 days... N  
 (40) Last 90 days... 68:30 (44) Night time last 6 months... N  
 (41) Total... 68:30 (45) Night time last 30 days... N

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft... <u>M</u>	See Attached List.
(47) Engine(s)... <u>O</u>	
(48) Propeller(s)... <u>M</u>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident... Ceiling unlimited, Visibility 6 miles, Wind S, 2MPH.  
 (51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident... No.  
 (52) Cleared from Freeman Field (53) To Local (54) Kind of clearance Contact  
 (55) Pilot's mission... Local Transition  
 (56) Nature of accident... Take-off - Wheels retracted before plane left ground.  
 (57) Cause of accident... Pilot error or temporary mechanical failure.  
 (58) Has Form #64 been submitted? No.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

A/C Simonton, N.A., student pilot and A/C Smith, R.D., student co-pilot were flying local transition in AT-10EH #41-26854 from Freeman Field on 15 September 1943.

Pilot states that they taxied out to take-off and made their take-off check. When they had gone about two thirds of the way down the runway, the wheels folded, letting the ship down on its belly.

Major damage to both propellers, pitot mast and carburetor air scoop assembly. Both the pilot and co-pilot state that the landing gear switch was in the down position on the take-off.

The ship was jacked up after the accident and the landing gear was found to function normally. No evidence was found of any permanent mechanical failure, but there was a possible chance that there was temporary mechanical failure in that the safety switch on the landing gear did not function properly.

Cause of the accident was either pilot error or temporary mechanical failure.

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 # 1A

Signature

*Robert J. DuChaine*

(Investigating Officer)

ROBERT J. DU CHAINE

Captain, Air Corps

Aircraft Accident Officer

Date