

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

(1) Place St. Anne Auxiliary Field (Freeman Fld) (2) Date 12 December 1943 (3) Time 0130Z

AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model AT-10 BF (5) A. F. No. 41-26876 (6) Station Freeman Field

Organization: (7) AAFETC (8) 30th Wing (9) 466th TEF Squadron
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

PERSONNEL

DUTY	NAME (Last name first)	RATINGS	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	RESULTS TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
S	Witmer, N. D.	P	0-790488	1st Lt.	01	A.C.	AAFETC	None	No
SD	Sonders, B.M.		33665298	A/C	62	A.C.	AAFETC	None	No



PERSONS CONTACTED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Witmer Norman D. (21) 0-790488 (22) 1st Lt. (23) 01 (24) A.C.
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)

Assigned (25) AAFETC (26) 30th Wing (27) 466th TEF Squadron (28) Freeman Field
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Attached for flying (29) AAFETC (30) 30th Wing (31) 466th TEF Squadron (32) Freeman Field
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)

Original rating (33) P-1 (34) 7-3-42 Present rating (35) P-1 (36) 7-3-42 Instrument rating (37) 9-29-43
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:

(at the time of this accident)

(38) This type..... 290:20..... (40) Instrument time last 6 months Not involved
(39) This model..... 290:20..... (41) Instrument time last 30 days Not involved
(40) Last 90 days..... 234:25..... (42) Night time last 6 months..... 29:25
(41) Total..... 939:05..... (43) Night time last 30 days..... :20

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

DAMAGE	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft..... M <u>5</u>	See attached list.
(47) Engine(s)..... O <u>0</u>	
(48) Propeller(s)..... M <u>4</u>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident Clear, visibility 7 miles, Wind SSW 6.

(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 night transition.

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

(57) Cause of accident Pilot Error.

(58) Has Form #54 been submitted? No.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

Lt. Witmer, N. D., Instructor, and A/C Souders, B. M., Student Pilot, were flying local night transition in AT-10 BH, A.F. No. 41-26876 from St. Anne Auxiliary Field on 12 December 1943.

The ship had just completed a normal landing and taxied to the take-off runway. A complete pre-take-off check was made by the student, and observed by the Instructor and the take-off was started. The aircraft became slightly airborne when the wheels suddenly retracted. The Instructor, Lt. Witmer, immediately reached for the landing gear switch to put the gear down and he found the landing gear switch in the up position. The ship continued settling until it struck the runway on its belly, causing major damage to the propellers.

From the statements of the Instructor and student, the student was in the habit of retracting his flaps on the landing roll. The Aircraft Accident Committee believes that this was done without the Instructor observing it and when the cockpit check was made, prior to take-off, the flaps were retracted and the position of the gear switch was not checked so that when the ship got light on the take-off the wheels retracted.

All pilots at this station have been warned against raising the flaps on the landing roll and this rule will be more strictly enforced in the future.

5 Incls:

- #1 - Instructor Statement.
- #2 - Student Statement.
- #3 - Damaged Parts List.
- #4 - Form 1.
- #5 - Form 1A.

Signature

Robert J. DuChaine
(Investigating Officer)

ROBERT J. DU CHAINE

Captain, Air Corps.

Aircraft Accident Officer.

Date 18 December 1943