

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

44-1-27-23

51-079

(1) Place St. Anna Fld. Auxiliary to Freeman Fld (2) Date 27 January 1944 (3) Time 0055Z
 AIRCRAFT: (4) Type and model AT-10 BH (5) A. F. No. 41-27087 (6) Station Freeman Field
 Organization: (7) AAFETC (8) 30th Wing (9) 466th TFFT Squadron
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron)

EFT PERSONNEL AFT AFT 5173

DUPLICATE	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	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)	(19)
32	SP Bertich, L. A.	SP	36725474	A/S	78-62	A.C.	AAFETC	None /	No
33	SC Hanke, H. H.	SP	16022102	A/S	78-62	A.C.	AAFETC	None /	No



PILOT ENGAGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Bertich Louis A. (21) 36725474 (22) A/S (23) 78 (24) A.C.
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
 Assigned (25) AAFETC (26) 30th Wing (27) 466th TFFT Sqn. (28) Freeman Field
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Attached for flying (29) AAFETC (30) 30th Wing (31) 466th TFFT Sqn. (32) Freeman Field
 (Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
 Original rating (33) S (34) 5-1-44 Present rating (35) S (36) 5-1-44 Instrument rating (37) 5-1-44
 (Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)

FIRST PILOT HOURS:
 (at the time of this accident)
 (1) This type... 40:55 (2) Instrument time last 6 months... Not Involved
 (10) This model... 40:55 (43) Instrument time last 30 days... Not Involved
 (10) Last 90 days... 55:55 (44) Night time last 6 months... 27:45
 (11) Total... 122:50 (45) Night time last 30 days... 18:40

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NT

DAMAGE		(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	<u>M 3</u>	See attached list.
(47) Engine(s)	<u>- 1 - 1</u>	
(48) Propeller(s)	<u>M 4 M 4</u>	

(50) Weather at the time of accident Clear, visibility 7 miles, Wind SW, 8 mph. 38
 (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. 71
 (56) Nature of accident Wheels-up landing.
 (57) Cause of accident Pilot error with temporary mechanical failure.
 (58) Has Form #54 been submitted? Yes Previous Form #54 covers same subject.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

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

A/S Bertich, L. A., Student Pilot, and A/S Hamke, H. H., Student Co-pilot, were flying local night transition from St. Anne Field, Auxiliary Field to Freeman Field on 28 January 1944 in AT-10 A.F. No. 41-27087.

PID
USE
MANUAL

The pilot states that he made a normal traffic pattern, put his wheels down on the downwind leg but did not check the landing gear position indicator nor did he check his wheels visually.

The co-pilot states that he did not check the landing gear visually, but that he had seen the pilot put the gear switch in the down position.

The ship landed and, after a short roll, the gear retracted causing major damage to the propellers and lower engine nacelles. It is the opinion of the Aircraft Accident Committee that the wheels were not fully down due to a weakened battery, and, as they were neither checked visually nor mechanically, the wheels collapsed upon striking the ground.

Cause of the accident was pilot error in not checking the position of the gear and partial mechanical failure in that the gear did not fully extend.

All pilots of this station will again be reminded that both the landing gear position indicator will be checked along with a visual check.

5 Incls:

- #1 - Pilot Statement.
- #2 - Co-pilot 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 1 February 1944