

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

5 miles east of Port Jackson, New South Wales	Height o.m.s.l. (ft) Sea Level	Date 18.1.70	Time (Local) 1608	Zone EST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Noorduyn UC 64A Norseman	Registration VH-GSF	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 2.11.64	Valid to 1.11.73
Registered Owner Skyservice Aviation Pty. Ltd., Hangar 53 Aerodrome, Camden, New South Wales.	Operator Skyservice Aviation Pty. Ltd., Hangar 53 Aerodrome, Camden, New South Wales	Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged Nil		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Camden	Time of departure 1518	Next point of intended landing Camden	Purpose of flight Parachutist Dropping	Class of operation Charter
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4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Kevin Colin ANDREWS	Pilot	50	Commercial	150	9000	Serious

5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
Geoffrey BINGHAM	Passenger	Nil	Colin KING	Passenger	Nil
John MAHAFFEY	Passenger	Nil	Patricia KING	Passenger	Nil
Edward HARRISON	Passenger	Nil	Ian SWINBOURNE	Passenger	Nil
Kevin NEILSON	Passenger	Nil	Louis JOHNSON	Passenger	Nil

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

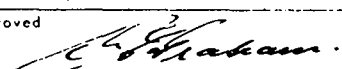
Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention

RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft carried as passengers, eight parachutists, who were to drop into the sea near Queenscliff in connection with a surf carnival. The dropping run was to be on a south easterly heading with the aircraft crossing the coastline at the southern end of the Queenscliff Beach at a height of 10,000 feet. On reaching the dropping zone the aircraft began to climb from 2,000 feet and had reached a height of 9,700 feet as the dropping run commenced. The run was slightly to the left of that intended however, and the aircraft crossed the coast further north along the beach. The jumpmaster, who was taking part in the jump, requested the pilot to make a second run. At that moment, the aircraft engine began surging and vibrating and some light smoke was seen in the cockpit. The pilot instructed the parachutists to leave the aircraft and all eight jumped in succession and were recovered safely from the water. The windscreen became covered in oil and the pilot, who was also wearing a parachute, decided that a landing would be difficult, so he abandoned the aircraft at a height of 5,000 feet. He was rescued from the sea a short time later. The aircraft crashed at high speed into the sea and apart from a fuel tank and portion of a wing, was not recovered.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The probable cause of the accident was that the engine failed in circumstances which rendered a successful landing unlikely. The reason for the engine failure has not been determined.

Report approved 	(D.S. GRAHAM)	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 5.2.1971
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