

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Kalumburu Mission, 116 miles north-west of Wyndham, WA.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 90 feet	Date 13.1.70	Time (Local) 0600	Zone WST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Cessna 182B	Registration VH-DSQ	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 19.1.65	Valid to 18.1.74
Registered Owner Ellenbrae Partnership, Ellenbrae Station, P.O. Wyndham, Western Australia.	Operator Ellenbrae Partnership, Ellenbrae Station, P.O. Wyndham, Western Australia	Degree of damage to aircraft Substantial		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged Nil		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Kalumburu Mission	Time of departure 0545	Next point of intended landing Departure Point	Purpose of flight Aerial Spotting	Class of operation Private
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4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Douglas James ESCOTT	Pilot	39	Private	240	300	Nil

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

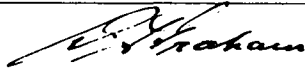
Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A.N.R. 113(1)(f)	The flight manual was not carried in the aircraft.
A.N.O. 20.16.2 para. 3.1	Cargo, namely a half gallon water bottle, was not restrained, so as to prevent movement in flight.

RELEVANT EVENTS

The pilot made an aerial inspection of development of part of the Mission property. On returning to the strip he positioned the aircraft on base leg at 500 feet, but before he turned left to make the final approach to land he noticed new developmental work and turned right toward it to make a closer inspection. As the aircraft turned towards the area and toward rising ground covered with tall trees, a water bottle alongside the pilot's seat fell over and rolled towards the rear of the aircraft spilling the contents. The pilot held the control column with his left hand, turned in his seat and made several attempts to right the bottle before he succeeded. During these attempts the aircraft descended to tree top height over the higher terrain. The pilot looked up at the same time as he felt the aircraft striking the trees. He levelled the aircraft, pulled up and applied power and made a landing without further incident at the Mission airstrip. Inspection disclosed extensive damage to the flaps and leading edge of the wings, that portion of the tailplane was missing and that the starboard elevator was supported by one hinge.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot's attention was distracted while flying at a low height.

Report approved  (D.S. GRAHAM)	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 11.2.1971
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DEFINITIONS

ACCIDENT - An occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all those persons have disembarked and in which

- (a) any person suffers death or serious injury as a result of being in or upon the aircraft or by direct contact with the aircraft or anything attached to the aircraft; or
- (b) the aircraft suffers substantial damage.

FATAL INJURY - Any injury which results in death within 30 days.

SERIOUS INJURY - Any injury other than a fatal injury which

- (a) requires hospitalisation for more than 48 hours, commencing within seven days from the date the injury was received; or
- (b) results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes or nose); or
- (c) involves lacerations which cause severe haemorrhages, nerve, muscle or tendon damage; or
- (d) involves injury to any internal organ; or
- (e) involves second or third degree burns, or any burns affecting more than five percent of the body surface.

MINOR INJURY - Any injury other than as defined under "Fatal Injury" or "Serious Injury".

DESTROYED - Consumed by fire, demolished or damaged beyond repair.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE - Damage or structural failure which adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft and which would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component. The following types of damage are specifically excluded: engine failure, damage limited to an engine, bent fairings or cowling, dented skin, small punctured holes in the skin or fabric, taxi-ing damage to propeller blades, damage to tyres, engine accessories, brakes, or wingtips.

MINOR DAMAGE - Damage other than as defined under "Destroyed" or "Substantial Damage".