

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

2 miles north east of Hughenden, Queensland.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 1020 feet	Date 9.2.69	Time (Local) 1815	Zone EST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model PA28-180	Registration VH-PIL	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 9.9.65	Valid to 8.9.74
Operator		Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed		
Defects discovered Nil		Other property damaged Nil		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point "Peronne" 21 miles south Hughenden.	Time of departure 1800	Next point of intended landing Hughenden	Purpose of flight Travel	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.
	Pilot	28	Private	375 hours	375 hours	Minor

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
	Passenger	Serious		Passenger	Minor

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A.N.R. 133(2)(a)	The aircraft was flown over a populous area at a lower height than 1500 feet.
A.N.R. 133(2)(b)	The aircraft was flown over an area, not being a town or populous area, at a lower height than 500 feet.

7. RELEVANT EVENTS

When the aircraft arrived over Hughenden it descended to a height of about 400 feet over houses on the southern and north-eastern areas of the town, then climbed slightly and flew at a low height across the town towards the golf course. The aircraft, on two occasions, flew at a height of about 300 feet over the golf course, in the vicinity of the club house, then climbed, circled to the left and descended to a very low height over a group of people who were playing golf. The aircraft then climbed steeply to approximately 200 feet at which height the pilot apparently lost control of the aircraft and it stalled, yawed sharply and dived to the ground. The initial impact was taken on the nose and starboard mainwheel and the aircraft skidded for a distance of 169 feet before coming to rest.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot operated the aircraft at an unsafe height.

Report approved



(D.S. GRAHAM)

Designation
Assistant Director-General
(Air Safety Investigation)

Date

21.10.69