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AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION MEMORANDUM

To	From	Regional reference	Registry use only
Assistant Secretary (Air Safety Investigation)	DIRECTOR WA	Section 22	
Subject: Accident to Pitts S-2A Aircraft Registered VH-KJG at Beverley Western Australia on 15 November 1980.			Date of despatch: 1 MAY 1981

Attached is the report on the investigation of this occurrence

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4. Aerobatic flight is becoming popular again throughout Australia and the details of this occurrence published in the Aviation Safety Digest may deter others tempted to to conduct aerobatics at a low height.

5. No further investigation proposed in relation to this occurrence.

Section 47F

30/4/81

30/4/1981

DEPT. OF TRANSPORT
DESPATCHED
-1 MAY 1981
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Section 47F

Regional Director

NOTE: Matters arising should include Regional comments on at least the following—(a) action taken or intended by the Regional Office; (b) recommendations for consideration in Head Office; and (c) matters on which the parties involved have or will be informed.

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Commonwealth of Australia
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Reference No. Section 22

1. LOCATION OF ACCIDENT

	Height a.m.s.l. (ft)	Date	Time (Local)	Zone
Beverley, Western Australia	750 feet	15.11.80	1820 hours	WST

2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model	Registration	Certificate of Airworthiness
Pitts S-2A	VH-KJG	Issued 8.6.78

Certificate of Registration issued to (name and address) Section 47F

Operator (name and address) Section 47F

Degree of damage to aircraft: Destroyed

Other property damaged: Nil

Defects discovered: Nil

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point	Time of departure	Next point of intended landing	Purpose of flight	Class of operation
Beverley	About 1800 hours	Beverley	Sporting	Private

4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Section 47F	Pilot	Section 47F	Section 47F	Section 47F		Fatal

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
Section 47F	Passenger	Fatal	-	-	-

6. RELEVANT EVENTS

Whilst performing aerobatics at about 500 feet above ground level, VH-KJG was observed to enter a spin. After one turn to the left followed by half a turn to the right, the machine dived towards the ground but failed to recover to level flight before it struck the ground in a wings level, nose down attitude with a high rate of descent.

7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The pilot conducted aerobatics at an altitude which was too low to ensure a safe recovery.

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8. CHARTS, DIAGRAMS, OR SKETCHES

(Indicate appropriate title)

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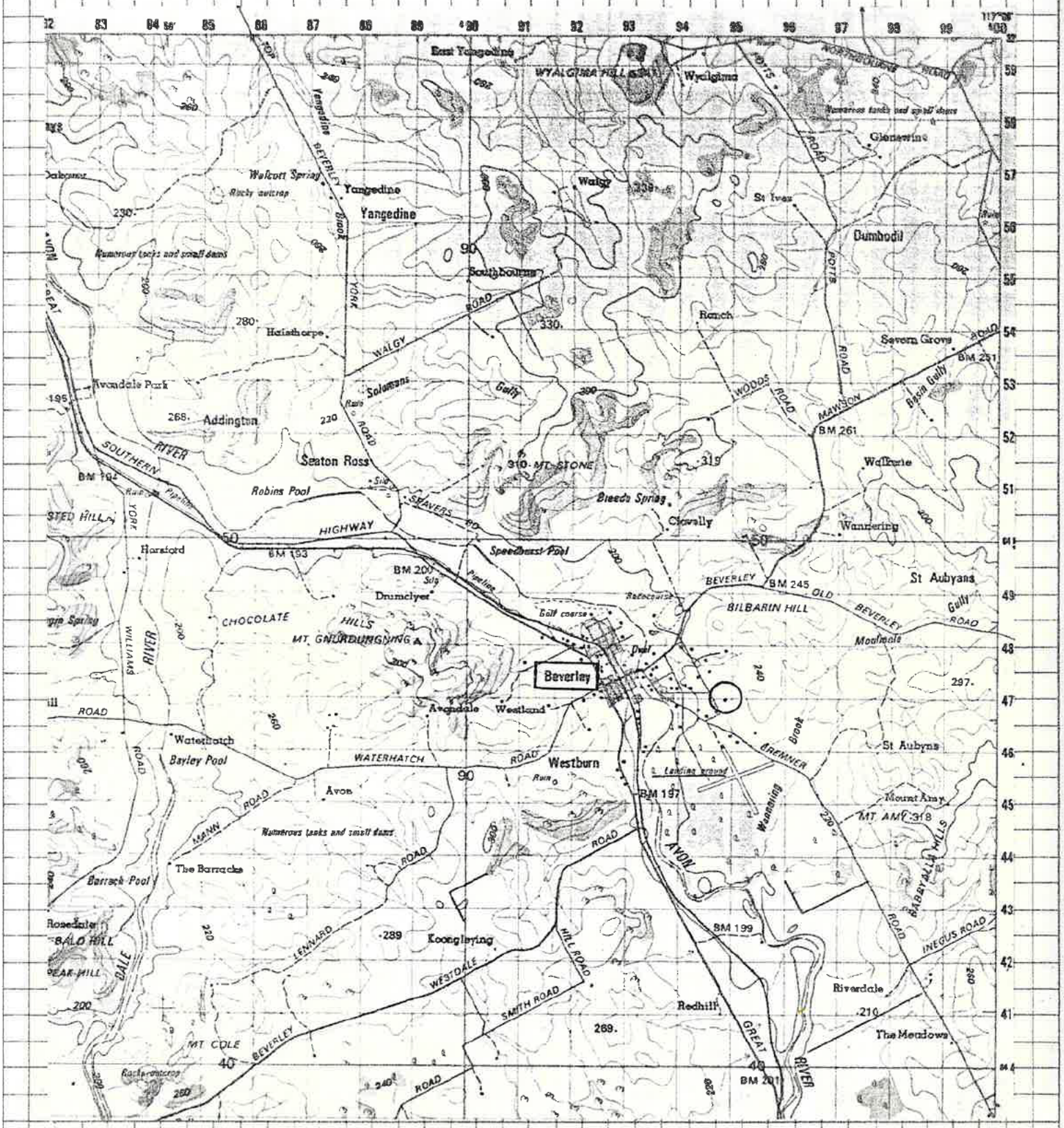
ACCIDENT LOCALITY | FLIGHT PATH | IMPACT MARKS | WRECKAGE DISTRIBUTION | WITNESS LOCATION | RUNWAY OR STRIP DATA | OTHER (Describe)

LEGEND

PORTION OF NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHEET NO. 2233
ACCIDENT LOCATION: VH-KJG, 15.11.80

SCALE 1:100,000

NORTH POINT



Pages 5 - 13 removed under section 22

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NARRATIVE *(give a concise chronological account of the sequence of events)*

A De-Havilland fly-in was organized to take place at Beverley on 15.11.80. The event was organized as an aviation fraternity event only and the public was not invited.

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That display was observed to be executed in accordance with the pilot's low level aerobatic approval.

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The consensus of witness opinion appears to be that VH-KJG carried out the entry to a loop type manoeuvre, from which the aircraft entered a spin to the left.

Recovery was effected after about one turn but the machine then made about half a revolution to the right before the pilot stopped the rotation with the aircraft pointing nearly vertically downwards.

The aircraft struck the ground during the subsequent attempted recovery, with the wings level and nose down about 45°.

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19. ACCIDENT PREVENTION

File Section 22

(Describe the lessons to be learned from this accident.)

Aviation Safety Digest Material?

20. ATTACHMENT CHECK LIST

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Special report (describe)

Section 22

Other (describe)

Section 22

21. PARTICIPATION IN THE INVESTIGATION

Name	Affiliation	
Section 47F	Section 22	Wreckage security provided by: W.A. Police/ASIB
		Name of first investigator to reach site: Section 47F
		Date/time of arrival (local): 15112100 hours

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Name of officer responsible	Designation	Date
Section 47F	IAS	29 APR 1981

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concerning the accident to Pitts S2A aircraft VH-KJG at Beverley on 15 November 1980.

The investigation of this accident has now been completed and it has been decided that, having regard to other outstanding investigations considered of greater significance to future air safety, an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report will not be produced.

Nevertheless, I can advise you that the investigation revealed the circumstances of the accident were as follows:

> Aerobatics were being carried out at about 500 feet above ground level. The aircraft began a looping manoeuvre from which it entered a spin to the left. Recovery was initiated but the aircraft then began to spin to the right. Rotation then stopped with the aircraft pointing vertically downwards. During the recovery from the dive the aircraft struck the ground, still over 30 degrees nose down, with the wings level. The pilot had been checked and approved to perform aerobatics down to 1000 feet above ground level. A condition of the approval was that passengers not be carried.

Yours faithfully,

Section 47F

DEPT. OF A...
DESPATCHED
23 AUG 1982
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

OA1980-05266 - Occurrence Details

Occurrence

Logged date	6/12/2021 11:52:50 PM			
Status	Approved for release			
Occurrence class	Accident			
Highest injury	Fatal			
Occurrence date	11/15/1980 12:00:00 AM			
Occurrence time	10:20:00			
Public summary	AREOBATICS AT ABOUT 500' AGL.ACFT ENTERED A SPIN,AFTER ONE TURN TO THE LEFT FOLLOWED BY HALF A TURNTO THE RGT,A/C DIVED TOWARDS GRND UNABLE TO RECOVER BEFORE IMPACT,AEROBATICS AT TOO LOW AN ALTITUDE.			
Property damage	No			
Property damage details				
Worst accident outcome	Not specified			
Defence effectiveness				
Risk rating				
ERC justification				
TSI reportable	Pre-TSI Act			
Ground injuries	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
	0	0	0	0

Location

Location	BEVERLEY WA
Latitude	
Longitude	
State	WA
Country	Australia

Aircraft

Registration	VH-KJG
Type	Aeroplane
Manufacturer	Pitts Aviation Enterprises
Model	S-2A
Engine type	Piston
Engine manufacturer	
Engine model	
Number of engines	1
Landing gear type	Tailwheel - Fixed
Fuel type	Gasoline
Year of manufacture	
Amateur built	
Maximum takeoff weight (kg)	714
ELT Type	
ELT Fitted	
ELT Activated	

Airspace

Controlling agency	
ATS service type	
ATS position	
Airspace class	
Airspace type	OCTA

Section 22

Operation

Registration	VH-KJG
Operator	
Flight number	
Related runway	
Phase of flight	Manoeuvering/airwork
PIC status	
Pilot flying role	Pilot in command
Departure aerodrome	Beverley [YBEV]
Destination aerodrome	Beverley [YBEV]
Actual landing	
Aerodrome proximity	
Operation type	Private
Operation subtype	Other - (Private)
Activity group	General aviation / Recreational
Activity type	Sport and pleasure flying
Activity subtype	Other sport and pleasure flying
Flight rules	
Flight conditions	VMC
Altitude type	AGL (above ground level - ft)
Altitude	Exactly
Exact altitude	500
Other information	

Occurrence category

Registration	VH-KJG
Level 1	Operational
Level 2	Aircraft control
Level 3	Loss of control

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Damage level and injuries

Registration	VH-KJG			
Injury level	**Fatal**	**Serious**	**Minor**	**Total**
Crew	Section 47E(d)			
Passengers				
Aircraft damage level	Destroyed			
Post impact fire				
Damage description				

Weather and environment

Cloud cover	
Visibility (km)	15
Light conditions	Daylight
Wind direction	215 Degrees Magnetic
Average wind speed (kts)	
Cloud base (ft)	
Visibility reduced by	
Turbulence conditions	
Icing conditions	
Precipitation type	
Precipitation intensity	
QNH	
Outside temperature	
Light and variable (windspeed)	No
Maximum wind speed (gust)	
Dew point	
CAVOK	
Effective cloud ceiling	
Weather phenomena	

Safety factor

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	

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8. CHARTS, DIAGRAMS, OR SKETCHES

(Indicate appropriate title)

File: Section 22 | Page:

ACCIDENT LOCALITY	FLIGHT PATH	IMPACT MARKS	WRECKAGE DISTRIBUTION	WITNESS LOCATION	RUNWAY OR STRIP DATA	OTHER (Describe)

LEGEND: PORTION OF NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHEET NO. 2233
ACCIDENT LOCATION: VH-KJG, 15.11.80

SCALE 1:100,000 | NORTH POINT

