

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Reference No.
AS/692/1044

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

24 miles north-west of Corowa, N.S.W.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 400 feet	Date 12.9.69	Time (Local) 1515	Zone EST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Type and Model Cessna 180		Registration VH-BGB	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 22.12.64	Valid to 21.12.73
Registered Owner Ronald Clive Ricardi, 259 Butt Street, East Albury, N.S.W.		Operator Ronald Clive Ricardi, 259 Butt Street, East Albury, N.S.W.		Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed	
				Other property damaged Nil	
Defects discovered					

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Sea Lake, Victoria	Time of departure 1345	Next point of intended landing Albury, New South Wales	Purpose of flight Travel	Class of operation Private
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THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Ronald Clive RICARDI	Pilot	34	Commercial	Estimated 199	Estimated 2009	Fatal

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
George Neil McKENZIE	Passenger	Fatal	David Anthony EDWARDS	Passenger	Serious
David William CARRA	Passenger	Serious			

CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

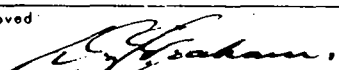
Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
	Refer to attached list.

RELEVANT EVENTS

During the night before the accident the pilot consumed a considerable quantity of alcoholic liquor and he retired to bed at about 0230 hours. Later that morning at approximately 1100 hours, he entered a hotel bar at Sea Lake and left about mid-day after consuming alcoholic liquor. Accompanied by the three passengers who had been drinking with him in the hotel, the pilot refuelled the aircraft before taking off for Albury. The weather conditions were good. During the flight of 1½ hours at least six bottles of beer were consumed by the occupants. On several occasions the aircraft descended close to the ground and on one such occasion the aircraft flew through a barley crop to a depth of at least two feet, and climbed away with the spray boom bent and barley stalks trailing from the structure. Some time later the aircraft descended below tree top height, began a steep bank to the right across the boundary fence of a cleared paddock and struck the ground with the right wing tip approximately 80 feet beyond the fence. The aircraft then dived into the ground and was destroyed. The two surviving passengers were thrown clear of the aircraft.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot's ability to conduct the flight was impaired by the consumption of alcoholic liquor.

Report approved 	(D.S. GRAHAM)	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 26.8.1970
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