

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

1.5 miles north of Merredin, Western Australia.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 1042 feet	Date 31.7.69	Time (Local) 1040	Zone WST
---	-----------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------	-------------

THE AIRCRAFT

Type and Model Cessna 182G	Registration VH-AEH	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 14.5.65	Valid to 13.5.74
Registered Owner D.H. Tranter Developments Pty. Ltd., 105 Hay Street, Subiaco, Western Australia.	Operator D. H. Tranter, 105 Hay Street, Subiaco, Western Australia.	Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged High Tension Transmission Lines.		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Jandakot	Time of departure 0915	Next point of intended landing Merredin Area	Purpose of flight Travel	Class of operation Private
---	----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury.
Dennis Harley TRANTER	Pilot	24	Private	73 hours	332 hours	Minor

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
Ronald Lloyd ROBINSON	Passenger	Minor	James William HAWKINS	Passenger	Minor
James Alexander HARWOOD	Passenger	Minor			

CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A.N.R. 133(2)(b)	The aircraft was flown at a lower height than 500 feet.


7. RELEVANT EVENTS

The Merredin Shire landing field is 4.5 miles south east of Merredin and, after arrival in the area, the pilot decided to select a landing field closer to the town since arrangements for transport after landing had not been made. He selected for examination a field 1.5 miles north of the town, oriented approximately north and south. After flying at 700 feet above terrain immediately to the east of the field on a northerly heading, the pilot carried out a descending turn to port with the intention of examining the surface from a low altitude. He levelled out on a southerly heading at a height of about 20 feet and almost immediately the aircraft ran through three cables of a power line. There was a bright flash of electrical discharge from the port wing, the windscreen disintegrated, one high tension wire was caught in the aircraft fin and all three wires were torn from the two nearest poles which were 900 feet apart. The aircraft moved to the left of its intended flight path and travelled approximately 550 feet before contacting the ground with the port wing and engine. It then cartwheeled horizontally on to the starboard wing coming to rest facing 180 degrees from the direction of its final approach to the landing area.

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

2.12.69

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 cowlings, 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".