

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

West Australia coastline, 45 miles north of Geraldton	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) -	Date 24.8.69	Time (Local) 1430	Zone WST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Type and Model Cessna 185A	Registration VH-AGK	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 9.4.65	Valid to 8.4.74
Registered Owner Agricultural & General Aviation, Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 37, Applecross, W.A.	Operator Agricultural & General Aviation Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 37, Applecross, W.A.	Degree of damage to aircraft Substantial		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged Nil		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Northampton	Time of departure 1400 hours	Next point of intended landing Departure Point	Purpose of flight Scenic Flight	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
Brian Richard ALLEN	Pilot	29	Commercial	419 hours	3848 hours	Nil

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury
Mark Roland Edward GUSCOTT	Passenger	Nil	Mervyn SISSONS	Passenger	Nil

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A.N.R. 133(2)(b) A.N.R. 34(1)(c) A.N.R. 271	The aircraft was flown at a height lower than 500 feet above the terrain. The aircraft was flown when the certificate of airworthiness was deemed to be suspended as a result of the aircraft suffering major damage. The pilot failed to report the accident to the Director-General.

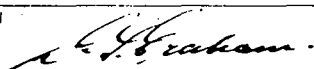
7. RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft departed Northampton for the Murchison River Gorge with two company employees as passengers, for the purpose of their taking photographs. Over the coastline a descent was made to 500 feet, and the pilot then descended to 70-80 feet above the beach. Some minutes later a large wave struck a rock outcrop ahead of the aircraft and sea water rose high into the air. The pilot attempted to evade the column of water but was unable to do so and the starboard mainplane struck it, and was substantially damaged. The pilot then landed at a nearby airstrip and inspected the damaged aircraft and, after deciding it was safe to fly, he then flew back to Northampton. The aircraft was later flown to Jandakot without repairs being effected.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

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

Report approved



(D.S. GRAHAM)

Designation

Assistant Director-General
(Air Safety Investigation)

Date

6.5.70

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".