

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199402478**

**Beech Aircraft Corp
Sundowner**

03 September 1994

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199402478 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 33km WNW Mossvale
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 03 September 1994
Time: 1046 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Beech Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: C23
Aircraft Registration: VH-ARF **Serial Number:** M-1683
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Wedderburn NSW
Departure Time: 0945 EST
Destination: Wedderburn NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	302.0	703

Approved for Release: Tuesday, September 20, 1994

The pilot had planned to carry out a short cross country flight from Wedderburn via Goulburn, Taralga and Mittagong before returning to Wedderburn. He said that he had owned the aircraft for about eight years and was very familiar with its operation. On the morning of the flight he measured the fuel contents of the left and right fuel tanks using a wooden dipstick and found that each tank contained 92 litres of AVGAS. From his experience, the normal fuel consumption was 37 litres/hr.

The flight to Taralga was uneventful in clear but turbulent weather conditions. However, as the aircraft tracked towards Mittagong the engine suddenly lost complete power. About one minute earlier the pilot said he had detected a slight amount of rough running and had used carburettor heat for about 30 seconds, without any change being noticed. When the engine lost power he was at a height of about 1500 feet above ground level. Despite changing fuel tanks, and turning the fuel boost pump on, power was unable to be restored. Due to limited height the pilot had to attempt a forced landing onto a steeply sloping field with rocky outcrops. Shortly after touching down the landing gear struck an outcrop and was torn off, stopping the aircraft from continuing into a valley. Both the pilot and his passenger were unharmed.

Although the total flight time had been about 61 minutes the left fuel tank was subsequently found to have been empty at the time of the accident. The engine was later able to be started and run. The pilot was unable to account for the apparent loss of fuel.

