

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199300562**

**Czechoslovak Automobile & A/C
L40**

21 March 1993

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 199300562 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Benambra
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 21 March 1993
Time: 1740 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Czechoslovak Automobile & A/C
Aircraft Model: L40
Aircraft Registration: VH-ENG **Serial Number:** 150614
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Benambra VIC
Departure Time:
Destination: Benambra VIC

Crew Details:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command		130.0	2700

Approved for Release: Wednesday, July 28, 1993

The pilot reported that he was making an aerial inspection of the Benambra airstrip prior to landing. He overflew the strip at about 150 feet above the ground and then commenced a left turn at a bank angle of about 45 degrees. While turning, the pilot said he was looking at obstructions in the vicinity of the airstrip and neglected to monitor the airspeed. He felt the aircraft shudder and then it stalled. He managed to level the wings but was unable to arrest the descent. The aircraft struck the ground in a flat attitude in swampland immediately to the north of the strip.

The pilot said that the day was hot and the aircraft was heavier than usual, in that there were three persons on board. Usually he is the sole occupant. The elevation of the airstrip is 2250 feet.

Significant Factors

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident:

- 1 The pilot became distracted while manoeuvring in the circuit area and as a result the airspeed decayed and the aircraft stalled

2 The pilot was operating the aircraft in a circuit area at a higher density altitude and higher weight than what he normally operated at.

