

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199301004**

**Amateur Built Aircraft
SOPWITH PUP**

11 April 1993

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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.

Occurrence Number: 199301004 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Riddell
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 11 April 1993
Time: 1000 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	1	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	0	1

Aircraft Manufacturer: Amateur Built Aircraft
Aircraft Model: SOPWITH PUP
Aircraft Registration: VH-SOR **Serial Number:** TSP-1-02
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Riddell VIC
Departure Time: 1000 EST
Destination: Mangalore VIC

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	20.0	1500

Approved for Release: Wednesday, October 26, 1994

The pilot was taking off from the 020 degree grass strip but was using only the last 700 feet of the available 2200 feet. Partial engine failure occurred when the takeoff roll was well established. The engine surged. The pilot applied carburettor heat, full rich fuel mixture and full throttle without regaining full power. The pilot continued the takeoff and became airborne. He advised that he had to turn to avoid trees. The aircraft stalled from somewhere between 50 and 100 feet. The wings were damaged. The engine was pushed back into the firewall and the undercarriage collapsed.

The owner subsequently advised that no fault has been found with the airframe, engine or fuel system. He believes that the likely cause of the loss of engine power was carburettor icing.

Significant Factors

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

1. The engine suffered a partial engine failure probably because of carburettor icing.
2. The pilot did not reject the takeoff.