

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

R.A.A.F. Base, East Sale, VICTORIA.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 15 feet	Date 12.4.69	Time (Local) 0920	Zone EST
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2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Bell 47G3B1	Registration VH-MCG	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 21.12.65	Valid to 20.12.74
Registered Owner Farmair Pty. Ltd., Tinamba, GIPPSLAND, VIC.	Operator Farmair Pty. Ltd., Tinamba, GIPPSLAND, VIC.	Degree of damage to aircraft Substantial		
Defects discovered		Other property damaged 3 pine trees.		

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point East Sale	Time of departure 0915	Next point of intended landing East Sale	Purpose of flight Agricultural Spraying	Class of operation Aerial Work
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4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
D. MARGETTS	Pilot	47	Commercial Commercial Helicopter	382 hours	6127 hours 2172 hours	Nil

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

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS


Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention
A.N.R. 133(2)(a)	The aircraft flew over a populous area at a height lower than 1500 feet.

RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft was engaged in spraying operations over the living quarters and working area of the R.A.A.F. base. When operations commenced, the wind conditions were light but, as the work progressed, the wind strength increased and at the time of the accident it was from 270 degrees at 22 to 30 knots. Spray runs were being made across wind at a low speed to achieve the required spray distribution and, when nearing the completion of the allotted task, the pilot made a turn in a downwind direction at the end of a spray run. In the turn, the aircraft commenced to lose height and the pilot increased collective pitch, but was unable to arrest the descent. As the aircraft was approaching a row of pine trees, the pilot also reduced the forward speed and dumped the remaining spray liquid but the aircraft continued to descend and struck the pine trees.

B. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot did not maintain adequate forward airspeed during a low level turn downwind in strong wind conditions.

Report approved 	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 15.9.69
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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".