

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH DONALD BELLEFONTAINE

I, Joseph Donald Bellefontaine, age 48, reside at 30 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Dartmouth, N. S. do offer the following statement concerning the accident to Piper J3 aircraft CF-BRP on September 29, 1957.

At 2:30 on the afternoon of September 29, 1957, myself and Mr. Warren Jollimore boarded CF-BRP for a local flight from Halifax Flying Club. Mr. Jollimore sat in the front seat and I occupied the rear seat. Mr. Steeves had removed the front control column. Both myself and Mr. Jollimore fastened our safety belts.

Mr. Steeves held the tail of the aircraft while it was started. The engine started easily and we taxied away from the ramp.

The wind was northerly and we had to taxi away down the lake, beyond Pulsifer's to the east side of the lake.

While we were taxiing I checked the magnetos which checked no drop and did a take-off check.

I turned into the wind and gradually opened the throttle. The take-off was normal. At about 500 feet I did a turn to the left and kept climbing towards Lake Charles which was south of us. I leveled off at 1000 feet and continued towards Halifax.

We flew in the vicinity for about 45 minutes looking at various points on the ground.

Then we headed back towards the flying club, reducing altitude for a landing. I was heading south on the east side of Waverley Lake. I turned to the right into wind for the landing approach. However, due to traffic on the lake I decided to land further towards the flying club and to do this, I entered a complete 270 degree turn to the left.

During the turn the aircraft went out of control and hit the water.

Mr. Bellefontaine was asked the following questions:

1. Was the fuel tank full when you commenced the flight?

Answer: It was just about full.

2. What is your weight?

Answer: 170 pounds.

3. Do you know the weight of Mr. Jollimore?

Answer: About 135 pounds.

4. When you entered the final left turn, what was your altitude?

Answer: Around 200 feet.

5. At this time, what was your airspeed?

Answer: Around 55 mph.

6. Were you using engine?

Answer: Yes.

7. During the turn, were you still descending?

Answer: I had it nose up when I entered, and the aircraft started to sink. Then it mshed away and went out of control.