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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT Serial No. 628

AIR SERVICES

CIVIL AVIATION BRANCH

SUMMARY ACCIDENT REPORT

Aircraft: Stinson 108, CF-EDB
Place: Near St. Jean de Port Joli, Quebec
Date: 26th March, 1959.

RESUME

At about 1000 hours EST on the 26th of March, 1959, Stinson 108 aircraft, CF-EDB, owned privately by Mr. L. Gagnon, attempted to take off on skis from a winter strip near St. Jean de Joli, Quebec, with the pilot-in-command, Mr. J.M. Gagnon, the owner, and Mirr R. L'Italien as passengers on board.

During the take-off the aircraft began to swing to the left and struck a small tree, with the right wing, on one side of the field. This caused the aircraft to swing to the right and it finally came to a sudden stop against another tree, causing substantial damage to the aircraft but no injuries to the occupants.

INVESTIGATION AND EVIDENCE

A Certificate of Airworthiness had been issued for the aircraft.

No evidence was found which might indicate that the engine, airframe or controls were malfunctioning prior to the accident. However, examination of the left ski revealed the absence of fiberglass on approximately three-quarters of its undersurface. This condition had existed for some time as indicated by the exposed wooden surface which showed signs of considerable wear.

The take-off was attempted on a north-westerly heading and the wind was reported to be from the southwest at 10 mph. Therefore, a crosswind condition existed and when the swing developed due to the drag of the left ski the rate of turn increased as the aircraft became affected by the crosswind and the pilot lost control.

The pilot-in-command held a valid Private Pilot Licence with a total flying experience of about 60 hours of which about 20 hours were acquired on Stinson 108 type of aircraft and during the 90 days prior to the accident.