



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
Air Services
Civil Aviation Branch

103
Serial No. 57-22

SUMMARY ACCIDENT REPORT

Aircraft: Piper J3C-65
Date : 26th September, 1957

RESUME

On 26th September, 1957, a Piper J3C-65 aircraft took off on a private flight from an airstrip, with the pilot and one passenger on board.

Shortly after taking off the aircraft headed in a north-westerly direction and, after reaching an altitude which observers stated to be normal, executed a few steep turns. The aircraft eventually stalled and went into a spiral dive from which it failed to recover before striking the ground in an almost vertical attitude. The pilot and passenger were killed instantly and the aircraft was destroyed. Medical evidence indicated that the pilot had 316 mgms of ethyl alcohol per 100 mls of blood in his system at the time of examination after the accident. In 90 - 95% of all persons this would result in marked intoxication and in 100% of all persons it would result in a marked degree of impairment of intellectual processes and manual dexterity.

INVESTIGATION AND EVIDENCE

A Certificate of Airworthiness which was in force at the time of the accident had been issued for the aircraft. No evidence was found to indicate malfunctioning of the engine, airframe or controls.

The pilot-in-command held a valid Private Pilot Licence and had accumulated a total of about 60 hours flying experience of which approximately 16 hours had been acquired on the Piper J3C-65 type of aircraft. About 6 hours had been flown during the 90 days prior to the accident.

Weather was not considered to have been a factor in the accident.

CONCLUSIONS

From the evidence obtainable it appears probable that the pilot was impaired to a marked degree and permitted the aircraft to assume an attitude from which he was unable to recover before striking the ground.

Entered on
Accident
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