



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BREWTON, AL	Accident Number:	ATL98LA070
Date & Time:	05/01/1998, 1230 CST	Registration:	N6645V
Aircraft:	Bellanca BL-17-30A	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot experienced a lost of engine power and he made a forced landing in an a field There were no injuries to the pilot, and the aircraft was substantially damaged after colliding with a fence during the landing roll. Examination of the engine revealed that the number 3 main bearing had spun, the crankshaft was broken at the number 3 cheek, and the crankcase exhibited fretting at the case mating surfaces, consistent with improper through-bolt torque. The engine had undergone a top overhaul 197.4 hours prior to the failure of the crankshaft.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Improper maintenance procedures used to overhaul the engine, which led to the crankshaft failure. Contributing to the severity of the accident was the fence.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CRANKSHAFT - FAILURE
2. (C) MAINTENANCE, TOP OVERHAUL - IMPROPER - OTHER MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

3. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	46
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	402 hours (Total, all aircraft), 95 hours (Total, this make and model), 402 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bellanca	Registration:	N6645V
Model/Series:	BL-17-30A BL-17-30A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	JOHN S. ABERNATHY	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CEW, 215 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 290°
Temperature:	25° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GROVE HILL, AL (3A0)	Destination:	DESTIN, FL (DTS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	BUTCH WILSON	Adopted Date:	02/11/2000
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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