



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SAN ANTONIO, TX	Accident Number:	FTW84FA218
Date & Time:	05/02/1984, 1930 CDT	Registration:	N82DS
Aircraft:	de Havilland TIGER MOTH DH 82A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED IN AN OPEN PASTURE WITH TREES ON THE WESTERN PERIMETER. THE ACFT ATTITUDE AT IMPACT WAS NOSE DOWN AT A 30 TO 50 DEGREE ANGLE IN A RIGHT SPIRAL. THE MAIN FUEL TANK MOUNTED ON THE TOP WING OVER AND BEHIND THE ENGINE BROKE FROM ITS MOUNT ON IMPACT AND RUPTURED. A FIRE BROKE OUT AND CONSUMED THE ACFT. A 11 YR OLD BOY SAID HE SAW THE ACFT CLIMB OVER SOME TREES, MAKE A LEFT TURN AND THEN HE HEARD THE ENGINE QUIT RUNNING. THE ACFT NOSED OVER SHARPLY AND DESCENDED BELOW THE TREES. THE WITNESS THEN SAW THE FIRE BALL. PLTS WHO HAD FLOWN THE ACFT SAY IT STALLS WITHOUT WARNING IF POWER IS RETARDED AND THE SPEED IS DISSIPATED AND THAT THE ACFT ALWAYS FELL OFF ON THE RIGHT WING DURING THE STALL.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

2. (C) STALL - NOT CORRECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/15/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	de Havilland	Registration:	N82DS
Model/Series:	TIGER MOTH DH 82A TIGER MOTH	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	NL-904
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/06/1983, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1770 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1859 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	de Havilland
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	1C
Registered Owner:	CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE, INC.	Rated Power:	140 hp
Operator:	CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SSF, 567 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1916 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	12 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31° C / 15° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAN ANTONIO, TX	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1845 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WARREN V WANDEL	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets 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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).