



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MILTON, Kentucky	Accident Number:	BF091LA015
Date & Time:	November 16, 1990, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N6996A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-23-250	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

THE AIRPLANE WAS CLIMBING TO ITS CRUISE ALTITUDE WHEN FIRST THE LEFT ENGINE SPUTTERED AND QUIT, THEN THE RIGHT ENGINE QUIT. THE PILOT MADE A FORCED LANDING IN A FIELD AND THE AIRPLANE STRUCK A DITCH. POST-ACCIDENT EXAMINATION REVEALED THAT THE OUTBOARD FUEL TANKS WERE EMPTY, WHILE THE INBOARD FUEL TANKS HELD FUEL. THE PILOT STATED THAT THE FUEL SELECTORS WERE IN THE OUTBOARD POSITION AND THAT FUEL MISMANAGEMENT HAD RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF ENGINE POWER.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE IN-FLIGHT FAILURE OF BOTH ENGINES DUE TO THE PILOT'S MISMANAGEMENT OF THE FUEL SYSTEM.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings

1. ALL ENGINES
2. FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
3. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

6. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

7. (F) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 1, 1990
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2630 hours (Total, all aircraft), 24 hours (Total, this make and model), 2437 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 84 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N6996A
Model/Series:	PA-23-250 PA-23-250	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	27-8054012
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 28, 1990 Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	30 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3535 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-C4B5
Registered Owner:	UNKNOWN	Rated Power:	250 Horsepower
Operator:	HARVEY GILMAN	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 6500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Light - None - Rain		
Departure Point:	LOUISVILLE , KY (LOU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	HAMILTON , OH (HAO)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.709079,-85.369796(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jones, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	J GREENWOOD; LOUISVILLE , KY
Original Publish Date:	December 8, 1992
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11646

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