



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	WAHPETON, North Dakota	Accident Number:	DEN90LA128
Date & Time:	June 8, 1990, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N32922
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL PILOT LANDED FOR FUEL. DURING THE LANDING ROLL, THE CROSS WIND LIFTED THE LEFT WING, AND TAIL SECTION. THE PLANE SKIDDED OFF THE RUNWAY TO THE RIGHT AND ENTERED A DRAINAGE DITCH. THE TAIL SECTION WAS BENT UPWARDS, THE NOSE, ENGINE MOUNT, AND FIREWALL WERE BENT UPWARDS. WINDS WERE REPORTED FROM 270 DEGREES AT 23, GUSTING TO 32 KNOTS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: INADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THE WIND CONDITIONS BY THE PILOT. A FACTOR WAS A STRONG CROSS WIND, WITH GUSTS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
 2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	21, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 10, 1990
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	317 hours (Total, all aircraft), 117 hours (Total, this make and model), 184 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N32922
Model/Series:	J3C-65 J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	5713
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A-65-8
Registered Owner:	DONALD V. BOTTELBERGHE	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:		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:	FAR	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	14:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 1500 ft AGL	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 13000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	23 knots / 32 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	NORTHWOOD , ND (3ND0)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MARSHALL , MN (BWP)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	HARRY STERN BWP	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	967 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	33	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4400 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

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:	46.25991,-96.60073(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Collins, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	WES EDWARDS; FARGO , ND
Original Publish Date:	November 9, 1992
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17945

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