



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MONTAGUE ISLAND, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC87LA129
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 25, 1987, 13:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3842M
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-12	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PLT WAS MAKING AN APCH FOR A SOFT/SHORT FIELD LANDING AT A STRIP WHICH PARALLELED THE OCEAN SHORELINE ON MONTAGUE ISLAND. HE STATED THAT WHEN HE CAME IN TO LAND, HE MISJUDGED THE HEIGHT & POSITION OF BUSHES NR THE APCH END OF THE STRIP. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT HIT THE TOPS OF BUSHES JUST SHORT OF THE LNDG AREA. THE LIFT STRUTS, TIPS OF THE PROP, LEADING EDGES OF THE WINGS & ELEVATORS WERE DAMAGED DRG THE OCCURRENCE. THE PLT RPRTD THE WIND WAS FROM 090 DEG AT 5 TO 10 KTS. A PLT/OPERATOR RPRT SHOWED THE LANDING STRIP WAS ORIENTED ON AN ESE HEADING.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: UNDERSHOOT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

#### Findings

1. (C) DISTANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	43, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 29, 1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	423 hours (Total, all aircraft), 89 hours (Total, this make and model), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N3842M
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-12 PA-12	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	12-2753
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	March 18, 1987 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1838 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	24 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2787 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-290-D2
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	RANDALL WELLINGTON KNAUFF	<b>Rated Power:</b>	135 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	30 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	90°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	16°C / -18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	ANCHORAGE , AK (MRI)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	11:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	NELLIE MARTIN RIVER	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	25 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	11	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	60.049667,-149.329299(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Stella, Marc

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** January 11, 1989

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=4896>

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