



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MADERA, CA	Accident Number:	LAX82FA174
Date & Time:	05/15/1982, 1320 PDT	Registration:	N40445
Aircraft:	MARTIN 404	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry		

Analysis

AFTER TAKEOFF THE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED TO TRAIL A BROWN SUBSTANCE. ABOUT 3 MILES FROM THE AIRPORT THE RIGHT ENGINE OIL PRESSURE DROPPED. THE PILOT DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE AIRPORT. WHEN HE THOUGHT THE RUNWAY WAS ATTAINABLE HE LOWERED THE FLAPS; HOWEVER, A LOSS OF POWER IN THE LEFT ENGINE OCCURRED AND A LANDING WAS MADE IN A WHEAT FIELD. INVESTIGATION REVEALED FAILURE OF THE FRONT MASTER ROD BEARING IN THE RIGHT ENGINE. THE AIRCRAFT HAD NOT BEEN FLOWN FOR FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THIS FLIGHT AND EVIDENCE OF OIL STARVATION WAS APPARENT IN BOTH ENGINES.

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) LUBRICATING SYSTEM,OIL LINE - CRACKED
 2. (C) MAINTENANCE - IMPROPER - OTHER PERSON
 3. (C) FLUID,OIL - STARVATION
 4. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,MASTER ROD - FAILURE,TOTAL
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

5. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 6. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
8. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	38, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/24/1981
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	9205 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8810 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 91 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MARTIN	Registration:	N40445
Model/Series:	404 404	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	14230
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	44900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	43000 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	R-2800-CB3
Registered Owner:	CLAYTON V. CURTIS	Rated Power:	2400 hp
Operator:	CLAYTON V. CURTIS	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FAT, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1300	Direction from Accident Site:	135°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	75° C / 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MADERA, CA (MAE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CASPER, WY	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1315	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	MADERA (MAE)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	4500 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Report Date:	05/15/1983
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 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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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](#).