

No. 21

Noorduyn Norseman VI, CF-BTH aircraft, crashed while landing at Red Lake, Ontario, on 22 October 1951. Dept. of Transport, Air Services Branch, Civil Aviation Division. Serial No. 51-39

Circumstances

In the late afternoon, 22 October 1951, a Public Transport pilot took off from Red Lake, Ontario for McDowell Lake, Ontario. This flight was normal. However, on the return trip, on its final approach-to-land, the navigation lights of the aircraft were seen and reduction in power was heard. Then an unusual noise followed by a burst of power was heard, which in turn was followed by the power being turned off and the thud, as the aircraft crashed into the water and rocks in a semi-inverted nose-down position. The pilot was killed and the aircraft destroyed.

Investigation and Evidence

The aircraft had a Certificate of Airworthiness for day flying only. Night flying facilities are not provided at Red Lake, Ontario. "Night" as defined in the Air Regulations commenced at Red Lake at 1742 hours CST and the accident occurred between 1840-1850 hours CST.

An approach-to-land had been made over the highest ground in the vicinity and the aircraft had collided with tall trees before impact.

Probable Cause

Due to the continuation of a day VFR flight into the hours of darkness the pilot had to try a night landing without proper facilities and in so doing hit tall trees which caused the aircraft to crash into the water.