

No. 12

Avro Anson V aircraft CF-EKJ crashed on take-off from Yellowknife, N. W. T. on 6 February 1951, whilst engaged on a charter flight. Dept. of Transport, Air Services Branch, Civil Aviation Division. Report No. 51-4.

Circumstances

The aircraft with one passenger and pilot attempted to take off from Yellowknife, N. W. T., to carry goods on a non-scheduled chartered flight to Fort Rae and the Martin Lake area. During the take-off the aircraft failed to rise sufficiently to avoid striking buildings in the Yellowknife Settlement and crashed, killing both the pilot and passenger simultaneously, and destroying the aircraft.

Investigation and Evidence

At the time of the accident the weather was clear with unlimited visibility, the temperature was  $-26^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and the wind was from a north westerly direction at approximately 5 - 10 mph. The direction of take-off was approximately  $192^{\circ}\text{T}$ , thereby giving a small tailwind component. The pilot held a valid Public Transport Pilot's Licence and had accumulated approximately 3,820 hours of flying time. At the time of the accident the certificate of airworthiness of the aircraft was valid, although there is a possibility that a previous wheels-up landing may have caused damage to the supercharger gears. Examination of these gears revealed that they had failed but it was not possible to establish whether the failure had occurred before or during the crash. Investigation revealed that the aircraft was overloaded to the extent of at least 1,400 lbs. This situation was aggravated by a 6-day accumulation of frost and snow which on the instructions of the pilot had not been removed, thus further decreasing the performance of the aircraft.

Probable Cause

The probable cause of the accident was the failure of the aircraft to gain height, due to being overloaded, covered with a 6-day accumulation of frost and snow, and having taken off partly downwind. It was not possible to determine whether or not there was a power failure in one or both engines.