

FINAL REPORT

AAIU Synoptic Report No: 2008-016

State File No: IRL00908032

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In accordance with the provisions of SI 205 of 1997, the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, on 27 April 2008, appointed Mr. Frank Russell as the Investigator-in-Charge to carry out a Field Investigation into this Accident and prepare a Synoptic Report.

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA12, EI-CMN
No. and Type of Engines:	1 x Avco Lycoming 0-235-C1
Aircraft Serial Number:	12 -1617
Year of Manufacture:	1946
Date and Time (UTC):	27 April 2008 @ 1305 hrs
Location:	Birr Airfield, Co Offaly
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Pilot - One
Injuries:	Pilot - None
Nature of Damage:	Substantial
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Details:	Male, aged 62 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	277 hours, of which 77 were on type
Notification Source:	Manager, Birr Airfield.
Information Source:	AAIU Pilot Report Form submitted by Pilot, AAIU Field Investigation.

SYNOPSIS

The aircraft struck a stout wooden pole during an attempted overshoot, leading to a shattered propeller and the almost total severance of the engine from the airframe.

1. FACTUAL INFORMATION

1.1 History of the Flight

The Pilot had just completed a short cross-country exercise in this tail wheel aircraft and was approaching Runway (RWY) 18 (grass, 550 metres in length), with the wind direction from about 160/12 kt. At about 300 ft the aircraft got a severe buffeting, making it difficult for the Pilot to hold a straight course.

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He kept his speed at 60 kt until over the runway threshold and made a three point landing. However, the aircraft bounced and drifted to the right of the runway. This drift continued in spite of the Pilot using ailerons and rudder in an attempt to counteract it. He then decided to carry out a go-around from the right of the runway and applied full power. Almost immediately the aircraft collided with one of the two stout wooden posts that hold the runway perimeter electric wire. The aircraft went through this post and its momentum brought it about 30 ft into the adjoining field. The wooden propeller shattered on impact with the post and the engine snapped from its bulkhead mounting (**Photo No.1**), as the aircraft came to a halt. The Pilot exited the aircraft safely and without injury. There was no fire. The Birr Airfield Fire Service quickly attended the scene.

The Pilot's own assessment of the cause of the accident was his failure to correct the right drift on landing, which led to the impact with the post and the subsequent serious engine damage. A contributing factor was the Pilot's low annual hours and flight experience on type.



Photo No. 1: Accident scene showing impacted post and engine resting on ground

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