

FINAL REPORT

AAIU Synoptic Report No: 2005-011

AAIU File No: 2005/0020

Published: 13 June 2005

In accordance with the provisions of SI 205 of 1997, the Chief Inspector of Accidents, on 11 April 2005, appointed Frank Russell as the Investigator-in-Charge to carry out a Field Investigation into this occurrence and prepare a Synoptic Report.

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| Aircraft Type and Registration: | Piper PA 12, EI-CMN |
| No. and Type of Engines: | 1 x Lycoming 0-235-C1 |
| Aircraft Serial Number: | 12-1617 |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1946 |
| Date and Time (UTC): | 10 April 2005 @ 1510 hrs |
| Location: | Birr Airfield, Co Offaly. |
| Type of Flight: | Private |
| Persons on Board: | Pilot - One |
| Injuries: | Pilot - Nil |
| Nature of Damage: | Wooden propeller shattered, engine cowling damaged. |
| Commander's Licence: | Private Pilot's Licence |
| Commander's Details: | Male, aged 54 years |
| Commander's Flying Experience: | 115 hours (including 63 hours on type) |
| Information Source: | AAIU Aircraft Incident Report Form submitted by Pilot. |

History of the Flight

The pilot completed a left hand circuit on Runway (RWY) 36 in his tail wheel aircraft and backtracked on the runway to repeat the same exercise. Having completed the pre take-off checks he opened the throttle and commenced his take-off run. Approximately 20 metres into the take-off run the tail lifted causing the propeller to contact the ground. The aircraft came to an abrupt stop, with the front cowling on the ground and tail in the air.

In his assessment of the cause of the accident the pilot noted that the brakes were not sticking nor were there any foreign objects on the runway. He is unable to explain why the tail lifted so early in the take-off run.

