

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903853**

Winton Sapphire

12 November 1989

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198903853 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Manton (43 km S Townsville) QLD

Date: 12 November 1989 **Time:** 920

Highest Injury Level: Fatal

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Winton Sapphire

Registration: AUF 10-1048

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Sport Aviation

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Manton QLD

Departure Time: 0920

Destination: Manton QLD

Approved for Release: 3rd January 1990

Circumstances:

The aircraft was observed to take off normally and climb to about 200 feet above ground level. Shortly after passing beyond the end of the strip, an apparent change in aircraft engine noise was heard by witnesses. The aircraft was then seen in a steep nose-down, inverted attitude. It remained in this attitude until ground impact. On site examination showed that the aircraft had struck the ground in an inverted nose-down attitude of 35 degrees. No fault was found in the aircraft or its systems which might have contributed to the accident. The engine was operating at impact. Witnesses reported that the pilot had complained of chest pains both on the morning of the accident and the previous evening. The post mortem report on the pilot indicated that, if other causes of the accident were excluded, there was sufficient chronic heart disease present for sudden heart failure or sudden death to have been likely events.

Significant Factors:

The following factor was considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot probably became incapacitated during flight, causing control of the aircraft to be lost.