



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	MADERA, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX82FA174
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	05/15/1982, 1320 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N40445
<b>Aircraft:</b>	MARTIN 404	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry

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## Analysis

AFTER TAKEOFF THE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED TO TRAIL A BROWN SUBSTANCE. ABOUT 3 MILES FROM THE AIRPORT THE RIGHT ENGINE OIL PRESSURE DROPPED. THE PILOT DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE AIRPORT. WHEN HE THOUGHT THE RUNWAY WAS ATTAINABLE HE LOWERED THE FLAPS; HOWEVER, A LOSS OF POWER IN THE LEFT ENGINE OCCURRED AND A LANDING WAS MADE IN A WHEAT FIELD. INVESTIGATION REVEALED FAILURE OF THE FRONT MASTER ROD BEARING IN THE RIGHT ENGINE. THE AIRCRAFT HAD NOT BEEN FLOWN FOR FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THIS FLIGHT AND EVIDENCE OF OIL STARVATION WAS APPARENT IN BOTH ENGINES.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) LUBRICATING SYSTEM,OIL LINE - CRACKED
2. (C) MAINTENANCE - IMPROPER - OTHER PERSON
3. (C) FLUID,OIL - STARVATION
4. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,MASTER ROD - FAILURE,TOTAL

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

### Findings

5. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
8. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	38, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last Medical Exam:</b>	09/24/1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	9205 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8810 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 91 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	MARTIN	<b>Registration:</b>	N40445
<b>Model/Series:</b>	404 404	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	14230
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	44900 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	43000 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R-2800-CB3
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	CLAYTON V. CURTIS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	2400 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	CLAYTON V. CURTIS	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FAT, 0 ft msl	Observation Time:	1300
Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	135°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	75° C / 0° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 180°	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MADERA, CA (MAE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CASPER, WY	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1315	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	MADERA (MAE)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	4500 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Adopted Date:	05/15/1983
Additional Participating Persons:		
Publish Date:		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .	

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