



J10-2-6914

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Date of Accident</b>	12 July 1998	<b>Time of Accident</b>	1235z		
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-JWT</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>Piper PA28-235</b>		
<b>Name of Owner</b>	<b>Name and Number of Operator</b>				
JWT-Verhuring					
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Private	<b>Age</b>	43	<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours		360	Hours on Type	Not entered
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Petrusville				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Ermelo Aerodrome				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Near the Kalkfontein dam					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Weather was fine				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1 + 2	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	Nil
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>On a flight from Petrusville to Ermelo the pilot reported a sudden noise from the engine, followed by a severe vibration. The pilot reduced power and adjusted the propeller pitch, but this did not improve the situation. The pilot then cut the engine and force landed the aircraft in an open field. During the landing the left-hand main wheel impacted with an anthill.</p> <p>After the landing the pilot discovered that a piece of the propeller blade had separated from the propeller.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
The tip of the propeller blade most probably separated due to the formation of a fatigue crack in the propeller blade. The pilot had to cut the engine and execute a forced landing due to the severe vibration that followed. During the forced landing in an open field the aircraft impacted with an anthill.					