

he had struck a tree. He subsequently moved about 50 feet and successfully landed at the same site.

Damage to the aircraft

Examination of the main rotor blades showed that both blades were damaged. One blade had a crack on the tip, about half way along the chord, starting about 8 inches on the underside, continuing span wise round for about an inch on to the top of the blade. It also sustained a crack just inboard of the trailing edge for about two-thirds of the blade chord and through which light could be seen when viewed from underneath. The second blade sustained a similar damage on the tip, but only a large wrinkle outboard of the trailing edge trim tab. There was no other visible damage to the aircraft.

Examination of the impact tree showed that the main rotor blades severed a branch of a sausage tree about two inches in diameter. This type of wood is known to be particularly hard.

The crash site

The crash site is located inside a tropical savanna forest, about eight kilometers south of the Arusha-Musoma road and 20 kilometers east of the Kirawira Camp. The vegetation is mainly elephant grass and acacia trees with other plant species present in smaller numbers. The forest is infested with tsetse flies.