

No: 8/92

Ref: EW/G92/06/03

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piel CP301A Emeraude, G-AYTR

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-14F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1958

Date & Time (UTC): 10 June 1992 at 1510 hrs

Location: Bidford Airfield, Warwickshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Serious Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Broken fin stern post, hood and engine cowling plus minor damage to the propeller.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 68 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 710 hours (of which about 20 were on type)
Last 90 days - 5 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hour

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries.

After a local flight the pilot returned to Bidford where the weather was fine with little or no wind. During his approach to the 1000 m by 450 m airfield in the 090° direction, the pilot mistook a field of rape adjoining and preceding the grass as part of the landing area. He touched down parallel to but short of the grass and on landing in the rape, which was about four feet tall, the aircraft turned over onto its back. There was no fire but the pilot was soaked in fuel which escaped from the tanks.

Being a tall man, the pilot had to be assisted from the inverted aircraft by the staff whose clothing also became heavily contaminated with fuel. Other members of the club stood by with fire extinguishers whilst the pilot was extricated. He was able to walk back to the airfield and he appeared to be unhurt. He was, however, advised to seek a medical check-up by the management and taken to hospital by car where he was detained with a serious spinal injury.