

No: 11/92

Ref: EW/G92/06/34

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Morane Saulnier Rallye 100ST, G-JENS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rolls-Royce Continental O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date & Time (UTC): 15 June 1992 at 1800 hrs

Location: Garway Airfield, Herefordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Extensive damage to propeller, both wings, fuselage and tail plane

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Night rating

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 780 hours (of which 400 were on type)
Last 90 days - 25 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was to be operated from a grass airstrip, approximately 600 yards long, on a warm and humid summer's evening. The purpose was a local pleasure flight, the pilot for the flight sat in the left-hand seat and the aircraft owner and operator (also a PPL holder) was seated in the right-hand seat.

The pilot states that the aircraft became airborne at about three-quarters of the distance along the airstrip but that the aircraft then failed to climb. It settled back onto the ground shortly before it reached the boundary fence. The aircraft sustained extensive damage as it crashed through this fence and it came to rest in the neighbouring field, without injury to either occupant.

In the assessment of the pilot, the accident was caused by the degradation of aircraft performance due to the warm humid weather, the airfield altitude and wind-induced 'curlover' effect at the end of the runway. The airfield is at 600 feet amsl, the temperature was about 25°C and the wind approximately 10 kt, at 60° to the direction of take-off. The pilot considers that, in retrospect, he should have abandoned the take-off if the aircraft were not airborne when it reached a point half-way along the runway, as the slope of the airstrip makes it difficult to stop thereafter.