

No: 3/83

Ref: EW/G83/03/06

Aircraft: Jodel D117 G-BHEL (Light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1957

Date and time (GMT): 19 February 1983 at 1505 hrs

Location: Great Eversden, near Cambridge

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Propeller and undercarriage fractured; damage to engine, cowlings and cockpit canopy

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's total flying experience: 91 hours (of which 16 hours were on type)

After take-off at approximately 300 ft agl, the engine failed. The pilot landed straight ahead in a ploughed field and was obliged by his direction of flight to land across the furrows. The aircraft was assessed as damaged beyond economic repair and the engine was not examined in detail after the accident. It was noted, however, that the fuel filter was full of fuel, there appeared to be no restriction in fuel supply to the carburettor and the propeller had shattered in a way that indicated that the engine was delivering power when it hit the ground. At the time of the incident, relative humidity was high and ambient air temperature was 4°C, and there was therefore a high risk of carburettor icing.