No: 2/92 Ref: EW/G92/01/03 Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel D112, G-AYMU

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65-8F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date & Time (UTC): 7 January 1992 at 1200 hrs

Location: Hailsham private strip, East Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Major damage to main landing gear; damage to engine

components; propeller damaged beyond repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,618 hours (of which 1,030 were on type).

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The airstrip at Hailsham was 450 yards long and the grass runway was in good condition. The landing direction was 245°(M) and the surface was damp. The ground under the final approach was level and there was a ditch running across the immediate undershoot area; reeds growing in the ditch protruded between four and six feet above the threshold elevation. The surface wind was estimated to have been south-west at less than 10 kt and the visibility was 12 km; there was no significant weather.

On short final, the approach seemed normal; the pilot thought that he would pass over the ditch at about six feet agl. However, the main landing gear struck the edge of the ditch and the aircraft pitched forward onto its nose. When it came to rest, the pilot carried out the basic shut-down checks and vacated the aircraft through the normal cockpit door.

The pilot reported that, although he had his full upper torso restraint harness tightly fitted, his head still moved far enough forward for his face to impact the coaming. Had his harness been more loosely fastened, he considered that he would have suffered serious injury.

In his assessment of the cause of the accident the pilot, who was both relatively experienced on type and familiar with the strip, could offer no reason for his apparent error of judgement.

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