

No: 12/83

Ref: EW/G83/10/01

Aircraft type and registration: Fournier RF 5 G—AZZW (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1967

Date and time (GMT): 2 October 1983 at 1530 hrs

Location: Staverton Aerodrome, Gloucestershire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — Nil

Nature of damage: Propeller and crankshaft broken. Structural damage to landing gear and left wing

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's total flying experience: 424 hours (of which 110 were on type)

During a final approach to runway 22 at Staverton Aerodrome whilst on a local flight, the engine lost power causing the pilot to turn away from the runway in order to make a forced landing in a field. During this turn the engine regained power but, whilst turning back towards the runway, the engine failed again at approximately 400 feet.

During an attempted forced landing in the only available field, the aircraft hit the approach boundary hedge and landed hard in a nose down attitude. The left wing hit the ground and the aircraft slid for 40 metres before coming to rest. There was no fire, and the upper torso restraint harnesses of both occupants held on impact.

Following the accident the pilot examined the aircraft and discovered that only 5 pints of fuel remained. He attributes the engine failure to fuel starvation. He stated that although he did not check the fuel level itself prior to flight the gauge showed adequate fuel for the flight.