

No: 3/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna U206F G-BGED

No & Type of engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp 10-520-F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and time (UTC): 12 December 1986 at 1230 hrs

Location: Above Sibson Dropping Zone, Peterborough

Type of flight: Parachute Dropping

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1 (parachutist)

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Damage to leading edge of starboard tailplane

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: Unknown

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 825 hours (of which 73 were on type)

Information Source: Information supplied by Peterborough Parachute Centre and the pilot

The aircraft was flying at 7000 feet above the Sibson dropping zone having already dropped four parachutists. Approximately half a second after the fifth and final parachutist jumped, the pilot felt an impact and the control yoke jerked forwards. The aircraft entered a dive from which the pilot recovered and landed without further incident. Inspection revealed damage to the starboard outboard leading edge of the tailplane.

It was subsequently determined that the last parachutist had deployed his auxiliary (pilot) chute too quickly after leaving the aircraft and the strop between this and the main chute had struck the tailplane. The parachutist subsequently landed normally without injury. The parachute club took appropriate disciplinary action and posted notices advising members on the dangers of failing to clear the aircraft before deploying the parachute.