

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Percival Proctor 3, G-ALJF
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Queen 2 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1940 (Serial no: K.427)
Date & Time (UTC):	24 July 2012 at 1630 hrs
Location:	Airstrip 12 nm south-west of Ashford, Kent
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Serious) Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to wings, engine bearer and propeller, aft fuselage and landing gear
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	78 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,200 hours (of which 1,067 were on type) Last 90 days - 2 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

The pilot attempted to fly a go-around after the aircraft bounced on touchdown. Despite using full power, the aircraft remained at slow speed and did not climb out of ground effect. It veered to the right and, after touching down a second time, struck a tree and substantial hedgerow. The pilot was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

History of the flight

The accident occurred at the end of a return flight to Le Touquet, as the aircraft was landing at a private airstrip. The grass runway at the airstrip was orientated 11/29 and about 350 m long. The weather was fine, with no wind and a temperature of 27°C. The pilot, who was familiar

with the airstrip, having flown from it for a number of years, elected to land in the easterly direction.

He allowed the aircraft to become slightly slow just before touchdown and applied power to correct. The aircraft bounced and he applied full power to fly a go-around. However, the aircraft did not climb but remained in ground effect at low airspeed, with full flaps still selected, and started to veer to the right. The pilot was unable to raise the flaps, because of the airspeed, so elected, instead, to reduce power and land. He then intended to perform a "ground loop", before the aircraft reached a substantial hedge and ditch ahead. However, before he could do so, the aircraft's left wing struck a

small oak tree, swinging the aircraft to the left and into the hedge, where it came to rest. There was no fire but the pilot, who was wearing a lap strap harness, sustained serious injuries. The emergency services attended the scene and the county Fire and Rescue Service freed the pilot from the wreckage, before he was taken to hospital.

In his report, the pilot attributed the accident to a combination of his handling of the aircraft and the hot, calm conditions.