

# Spitfire IXT, G-LFIX

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/2000 Ref:EW/G2000/03/21 Category:1.2

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Spitfire IXT, G-LFIX
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rolls-Royce Merlin 25 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1944
Date & Time (UTC):	31 March 2000 at 1256 hrs
Location:	Duxford Airfield
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to three of the Spitfires propeller blades and a portion of the nosecone. Substantial damage to the helicopters left side
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence
Commander's Age:	48 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	703 hours (of which 285 were on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours  Last 28 days - 9 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot. Visit to Duxford Airfield by an AAIB Inspector

The Spitfire pilot planned a practice display flight at Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire in preparation for the coming summer display season. Whilst the Spitfire was taxiing for take off a Bell 206 helicopter arrived at the airfield and was parked on the H on the grass between the paved taxiway and the grass runway in front of the tower.

After the display the Spitfire landed on grass Runway 24 and taxied on the grass behind a number of parked aircraft toward a parking place at the north-east of the airfield. The Spitfire pilot used normal tailwheel taxiing technique, weaving the aircraft from side to side in order to clear the area ahead. But after passing the last of the parked aircraft to its left side the Spitfire struck the Bell 206 helicopter almost head-on. The collision caused damage to three of the Spitfires propeller blades and a portion of the nosecone, and substantial damage to the helicopters left side.

The H parking position at Duxford has been in use for many years and is located approximately one third of the distance between the paved taxiway and the grass runway, at the southern edge of the area as a grass taxiway parallel to Runway 24. Since the accident Duxford Airfield Management are to consider means by which increased separation can be achieved between helicopter parking and the grass taxiway.