

Jodel D117, ES-JRS, 10 September 2002

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Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Jodel D117, ES-JRS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental C90-14F piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1957	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 September 2002 at 0945 hrs	
Location:	North Weald Aerodrome, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Extensive	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	52 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	243 hours (of which 212 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 22 hours	
	Last 28 days - 18 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by the AAIB	

The aircraft had been rebuilt in Estonia by its owner and completed flight testing and experimental category certification in May 1996. The owner, who is a professional motor racing engineer, then undertook a flying training course in the aircraft and was awarded his Private Pilots Licence later during 1996. He carried out his own maintenance on the aircraft and indicated that its most recent annual inspection had been carried out in July 2002.

The owner-pilot had been invited to attend a fly-in at North Weald aerodrome and completed the flight from Estonia in four sectors, arriving at North Weald on 6 September 2002 after a total of some 15 hours flying. He planned to return to Estonia by initially routing from North Weald to Teuge aerodrome in the Netherlands. The aircraft was fuelled to full tanks for departure and there were two occupants on board.

The surface wind was from 240° at 8 to 10 kt and the aircraft commenced its take-off roll on the asphalt Runway 20. After lift off, when the aircraft was at about 150 feet agl, the engine failed. The aircraft was substantially damaged during the ensuing forced landing, but there was no fire and the occupants were uninjured.

No immediate cause of the engine failure was apparent, although the owner-pilot considered that it was most likely due to spark plug failure. It was his intention to recover the wreckage to Estonia and rebuild the aircraft again. Should further indications of the cause of the engine failure come to light at that stage, then it will be reported in a future AAIB Bulletin.