

# Piper J3C-65, G-BPYN, 7 June 1996

**AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/07 Category: 1.3**

## INCIDENT

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper J3C-65, G-BPYN

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Continental A65 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1943

**Date & Time (UTC):** 7 June 1996 at 1710 hrs

**Location:** White Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Mark on leading edge of right wing, rightcowling dented, small hole in rear canopy

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 40 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 386 hours (of which 98 were on type)

Last 90 days - 16 hours

Last 28 days - 8 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was landing at White Waltham after a flight from Old Warden. The pilot joined the circuit overhead and positioned the aircraft in a left hand pattern for Runway 11. The weather was fine with a light and variable wind. During the landing roll the pilot noticed an airship in his 2 o'clock position crossing from right to left at a height between 10 and 20 feet. The airship then passed some 5 to 15 feet overhead and the front tie ropes struck the aircraft with audible thuds. The airship was heard to ask on RT whether it had 'hit the Cub' to which the pilot of G-BPYN answered that he would like to discuss the matter later. After shutting down his aircraft he noticed the damage. The pilot reports that the airship had intended to pass behind his aircraft but its pilot has misjudged the relative speed of both aircraft resulting in the airship's passage directly above him.

