

Aircraft type and registration: Sopwith Pup G-ABOX

No & Type of engines: 1 Le Rhone 80 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1916

Date and time (UTC): 2 July 1986 at 1430 hrs

Location: Middle Wallop Airfield, Andover, Hants

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to propeller, upper right wing tip, engine cowlings and landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 1169 hours (of which 2 were on type)

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

The accident occurred at the end of a short flight from Middle Wallop, during which the aircraft was filmed for television.

During take-off the wind, which was light and variable 5 to 6 knots, changed from a nominal head wind to a tail wind condition, resulting in a longer than normal take-off run during which the aircraft was on the port wheel for some considerable distance.

The landing approach to the grass runway 26 was normal. The aircraft touched down on three points, bounced briefly over a ground depression and touched down for the second time, again in a three point attitude. The roll out appeared to proceed normally, but as the aircraft slowed the landing gear collapsed and the aircraft tipped forward on to the propeller and upper wing. The pilot was uninjured and evacuated the aircraft immediately.

The damage to the undercarriage suggested that the left wheel had buckled, followed by detachment of the left axle from its central pivot assembly.