

No: 9/90

Ref: EW/G90/07/18

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type
and Registration:**

- 1) De Havilland DH-82A Tiger Moth, G-APLU
- 2) Pitts S-1E, G-OTSW

No & Type of Engines:

- 1) 1 De Havilland Gypsy Major 1 piston engine
- 2) 1 Lycoming O-360-B4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

- 1) 1943
- 2) 1984

Date and Time (UTC):

22 July 1990 at approximately 1030 hrs

Location:

Middle Wallop Airfield, Hampshire

Type of Flight:

Private

Persons on Board:

Crew -1) 1 Passengers - None
Crew -2) None Passengers - None

Injuries:

Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage:

- 1) Propellor blade tips crushed.
- 2) Fin and rear fuselage structures punctured and distorted

Commander's Licence:

- 1) Private Pilot's Licence with Night rating

Commander's Age:

43 years

**Commander's Total
Flying Experience:**

853 hours (of which 500 were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The Tiger Moth had been parked overnight in the rear of two lines of aircraft approximately 20 metres apart. On the day of the accident a number of aircraft in the front line moved away leaving a large gap which would have been about 100 metres wide but for the Pitts Special, which remained tied down directly in front of the Tiger Moth.

Although the Tiger Moth pilot noticed the Pitts Special during his pre-flight inspection, it was so small that after he strapped-in it was completely hidden within his blindspot under the nose. After starting the pilot initially taxied straight ahead to clear the aircraft parked on either side before commencing a weave. As he started to weave he saw the Pitts Special but, realising there was insufficient space to avoid it by turning, he switched off the engine ignition systems. The aircraft continued to roll slowly forward on the hard grass until the propeller struck the top of the fin of the Pitts Special and tore a hole in its rear fuselage. No one was hurt and the pilot vacated normally.