

No: 9/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Stampe SV4A G-AZNK

No & Type of engines: 1 Renault 4PO3 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1962

Date and time (UTC): 3 July 1987 at 1605 hrs

Location: Meppershall Airfield, Bedfordshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to both mainplanes, fin and rudder. Broken propeller, engine and cowlings damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 1050 hours (of which 2 were on type)

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

The aircraft had departed from Sywell and, since the pilot was unsure of the surface conditions at Meppershall grass strip, he elected to make a 'wheeler' landing. The aircraft touched down normally and, as speed reduced, the tail settled gently and the aircraft swung slightly to the right. The pilot, who had considerable experience of tail wheel aircraft, applied left rudder to counteract the swing. Almost immediately the aircraft somersaulted onto its back and slid to a halt.

The pilot escaped unhurt and shortly afterwards examined his aircraft to find no obvious defect but a slight binding on the left wheel brake. He also noticed that during the accident the pilot's seat had moved from its fully lowered position to a setting some 2 inches up the adjustment rails. This suggested that the locking mechanism had failed to restrain the seat when the aircraft had become inverted.