

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/95

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Category: 1.3

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

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Continental A65-8F piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1943

**Date & Time (UTC):** 29 July 1995 at 1415 hrs

**Location:** Kearsley Farm, Northumberland

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Propeller broken; the inlet manifold and oil sump were damaged. The windshield was broken and the cockpit forward braces, three wing struts, the rudder and both lower longerons were distorted

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

**Commander's Age:** 64 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 128 hours (of which 56 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 11 hours  
Last 28 days - 2 hours

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

The aircraft was being operated out of a farm strip which had been mown in a field that also supported a rape crop. The strip was 700 yards long and 20 yards wide with a 6 inch wide uncut grass verge and was surrounded by the rape crop which was standing 30 inches high at the time of the accident. The wind was approximately 4 kt blowing straight across the strip and the temperature was 26°C.

The flight had been conducted with one passenger on board which was an unusual situation for the pilot, who invariably flew alone and therefore was unused to landing the aircraft at the heavier weight. As the aircraft was flared at the end of the landing strip it began to drift to the right and the pilot was unable to counter the drift with sufficient power before the right mainwheel touched down in the uncut grass verge. This had the effect of further dragging the aircraft to the right until the right wing strut caught the rape crop which was strong enough to cause the aircraft's nose to contact the ground. The aircraft then slid another twenty feet on its nose before coming to rest inverted. There was no fire and the pilot and his passenger were able to vacate the aircraft without injury.