

Aircraft type and registration: Reims Cessna F182P G-BFGY

No & Type of engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp 0-470-S piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date and time (UTC): 4 August 1987 at 1329 hrs

Location: Tempest Airstrip, St Ives, Cornwall

Type of flight: Private (business)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 3

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Instrument, IMC and full Instructor's Ratings

Commander's Age: 53 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 1623 hours (of which more than 900 were on type)

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

The aircraft was taking off on a 500 metre by 46 metre private grass strip aligned in a south-easterly/north-westerly direction. The direction of take-off was south-easterly with a slope downwards from left to right across the runway. The wind was light from the north, and the weather was good.

During the latter stages of the take-off run the aircraft yawed to the right and the pilot was under the impression that the nosewheel had burst or failed and so he held the nosewheel off the ground. During the excursion to the right the nosewheel became detached, the undercarriage fork fractured, and the engine separated from its mountings. The nose landing gear strut then encountered a low bank and the aircraft slowly tipped onto its back.

The diagonal upper torso restraint being worn by the pilot and passengers held on impact, but the pilot's seat became detached from its mounting and considerable difficulty was experienced by the pilot in opening his door and evacuating the passengers. There was no fire, although there was a post impact fuel leak.