

No: 4/88

Ref:1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Amateur Construction Currie Wot G-ARZW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Walter Mikron 3 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1962	
Date and Time (UTC):	12 February 1988 at 1645 hrs	
Location:	Headcorn Aerodrome, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private (pleasure)	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Serious)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft destroyed	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and assistant Instructor's Ratings	
Commander's Age:	24 years	
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	430 hours (none of which were on type)	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent examination of salvaged wreckage by AAIB engineer	

The aircraft had been flown a number of times with satisfactory behaviour after a major re-build following accident damage.

On the day of this accident the pilot involved took the aircraft over immediately after the previous pilot landed. During the take-off run, the starboard lower wing struck one of the frangible runway markers. The pilot reports that immediately after take-off the nose yawed hard right, although full left rudder was applied the aircraft then also rolled hard right. Believing that a wing drop associated with a stall may have occurred the pilot pushed the stick forward and maintained left rudder. Despite applying full forward stick, it was the pilots impression that the climb was continuing and a further sharp roll to the right was experienced. The pilot therefore maintained the stick forward and moved it fully to the left. The aircraft nonetheless continued to climb and turn to the right. Although aware of a tree in the path of the aircraft, the state of control was such that the pilot realised a collision with this tree was inevitable.

After the collision, the aircraft entered a spiral dive during which the pilot was able to throttle back and close the fuel cock before the aircraft struck the ground.

Subsequent examination of the wreckage revealed no evidence of any pre-impact failure in the aircraft nor was there any indication of damage having occurred during the contact with the runway marker.

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-32-200C-A1RX
No. & Type of Engines:	11-cylinder 0-540-B41B piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1986
Date and Time (UTC):	7 February 1988, 1630hrs
Location:	Elstree Airport, Herts
Type of Flight:	Private (Personal)
Persons on Board:	Crew: 1 Pilot, 1 Passenger
Injuries:	Crew: None, Passenger: None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to landing gear and propeller
Commander's License:	Private Pilot's License (PPL) and Night Rating
Commander's Age:	34 years
Commander's Total Flight Experience:	137 hours of which 8 hours is PPL
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report furnished by the pilot on 14 Feb 1988

After landing on runway 28, in wind conditions as described as light and variable, the aircraft failed to maintain directional control. As a result the aircraft suffered a partial ground loop and coming to rest on the grass approximately 100 yards left of the runway edge. It departed the runway the way along its length.