

Spitfire LF XVIE, G-OXVI

AAIB Bulletin No:
9/2001

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Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Spitfire LF XVIE, G-OXVI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Packard Merlin 266 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1944

Date & Time (UTC): 11 May 2001 at 1103 hrs

Location: Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Landing gear detached, left wing tip bent, propeller shattered

Commander's Licence: Private Pilots Licence

Commander's Age: 73 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,300 hours (of which 60 were on type)

Last 90 days - 30 hours

Last 28 days - 16 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was making an approach to grass Runway 06 at Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire following a flight of about an hour practising stalling, aerobatics and general handling. The weather was fine with wind 070°/5 kt and good visibility. Prior to the landing flare the circuit was flown without incident. The flare was initiated at approximately 15 feet above the runway and the pitch attitude continued to increase until the left wing dropped and struck the ground. Immediately thereafter the nose and main landing gear hit the ground tearing the main-wheels from the fuselage. The aircraft slid to a halt on its belly. The pilot exited the aircraft uninjured.

In his report, the pilot assessed the cause of the accident to be loss of airspeed during a higher than normal landing flare leading to a stall and wing drop.