

**Aircraft type and registration:** DHC-1 Chipmunk 22 G-MUNK

**No & Type of engines:** 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 10 Mk 2 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1951

**Date and time (UTC):** 26 September 1986 at 1530 hrs

**Location:** Approximately 2 nm south of Harwich harbour

**Type of flight:** Private (pleasure)

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — None

**Injuries:** Crew — 1 (minor)              Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Aircraft sank and not recovered

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC, Night and Assistant Instructor's Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 26 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 610 hours (of which 150 were on type)

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

Whilst practising aerobatics on a flight between Southend and Ipswich airports, the aircraft suffered a loss of engine power. It had been airborne for about 30 minutes and had just completed a slow roll when the loss of power occurred over the sea.

The pilot turned towards land and, having failed to determine the reason for the failure, transmitted a Mayday call to Wattisham. He then had to ditch the aircraft into the sea, whereupon it immediately nosed forward and turned on its back. The pilot released his harness, opened the canopy and escaped from the aircraft, spending only about 3 minutes in the water before being rescued by a passing sailing boat. A subsequent hospital check-up confirmed his only injuries to be slight scratches and bruising.

No reason for the loss of power is likely to be found as the aircraft was not recovered, although the pilot reports that the engine appeared to regain power momentarily as the aircraft first touched the water, but too late to effect a recovery.