

No: 10/89

Ref: EW/G89/07/25

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA 22-108, G-AROM

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-C1B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1961

Date and Time (UTC): 30 July 1989 at 1910 hrs

Location: Minley, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to fuselage, wings and engine.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 176 hours (of which 19 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent telephone call.

The aircraft was on a cross country flight from Deanland (Lewes, E. Sussex) to White Waltham. Shortly after passing north of Farnborough the engine backfired and stopped. The pilot trimmed the aircraft for best glide speed and attempted to restart the engine, but without success. Realising that he could not reach Blackbushe, the pilot selected a suitable field which turned out to be the Royal Engineers' sports field at Gibraltar Barracks. Shortly before touchdown the aircraft struck a tree at the edge of the field and turned sharply to the right, coming to rest facing back along the flight path. Both occupants escaped unharmed.

Subsequent examination of the engine by the pilot found no cause for the engine failure, although the carburettor had been destroyed in the impact. The engine had a history of problems when re-starting from hot, and recent work had been carried out to rectify this. The pilot estimated that there had been approximately 3½ gallons of fuel, Avgas 100LL, on board at the time of the accident.

The pilot stated that both occupants were wearing full harness, which held on impact. He also commented on the value of forced landing practice, which he believed assisted him greatly.