

Aircraft type and registration: Jodel DR 1050 G-ASRP

No & Type of engines: One Rolls Royce Continental 0-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1959

Date and time (GMT): 17 March 1986 at 1310 hrs

Location: Swanbister Bay, Orphir, Orkney

Type of flight: Private (business)

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

Commander's Age: 68 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 480 hours (of which 184 were on type)

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

The pilot notified Kirkwall ATC of the intended flight to Perth, and obtained a weather forecast for the journey. After the exterior and interior pre-flight checks had been completed, the aircraft took off from a private grass strip in a southerly direction towards Scapa Flow.

Approaching 300 feet during the climb-out a corner of the oil filler/inspection cover on the right side of the cowling was seen to rise, quickly followed by the other side so that the cover was held erect and was flapping in the slipstream.

The pilot decided to return to the field and land. He commenced a turn to the right at a height of 500 feet with the airspeed increasing to 80 mph. The aircraft was reluctant to turn to the right, so a turn to the left was initiated. An eye-witness had said that the turn to the left was quite sharp and steep and the aircraft dived into the sea.

The pilot cannot remember his descent into the sea. He came round strapped into his seat in full harness, which had held on impact, and with his life-jacket inflated. He received serious injuries to his face and ribs.

The engine, forward bulkhead, and structure forward of the pilot's position had broken away. After some 20 minutes the pilot was rescued by a small boat and taken to hospital suffering from his injuries received in the accident, and from hypothermia. The aircraft was destroyed and the engine not recovered.