

No: 10/90

Ref: EW/G90/08/04

Category: 1a

Aircraft Type and Registration: Mustang P51D, N51JJ

No & Type of Engines: Packard V-1650-11 Merlin engine

Year of Manufacture: 1944

Date and Time (UTC): 9 August 1990 at 1730 hrs

Location: Stapleford Airfield, Essex

Type of flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller, spinner, air scoop and radiator duct damage

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 1159 hours (of which 195 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was conducting an airtest upon the aircraft's complete avionics installation which had been repaired and, during the test, the entire installation except for the gyro compass proved to be unserviceable. However, during a 'run-in and break' manoeuvre prior to landing, the gyro compass warning flag went to OFF and the compass card stopped rotating. During the subsequent circuit, the pilot omitted to lower the landing gear and the aircraft landed in this configuration. There was no fire and the pilot vacated the aircraft without further incident.

The pilot states that the distraction caused by the total avionics failure, and the fact that the landing gear indicator lights had recently been changed in both type and location, possibly contributed to his omission to extend the gear.