

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/93

Ref: EW/G93/03/10

Category: 5

Aircraft Type and Registration: Thunder & Colt 77A Hot Air Balloon, G-LSHI

No & Type of Engines: Two propane burners

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date & Time (UTC): 13 March 1993 at 1000 hrs

Location: North of Hatfield Aerodrome, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Serious Passengers - Minor

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 250 hours (of which 220 were on type)
Last 90 days - 7 hours
Last 28 days - Nil

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During the last five minutes of a pleasure flight, the pilot discovered a leak on one of the burners and, having rendered that system safe, elected to land as soon as possible, using the remaining burner. The wind was 180° at 12 to 15 kt. He selected a field and made a low approach over some wires but, whilst pulling the rip line to make an intentionally positive landing, the basket tripped over the far lip of a hollow in the ground.

The pilot was thrown from the basket but the passenger, who although unlicensed had much experience of balloon flight, immediately grabbed the rip line and completely deflated the balloon. During this process, the balloon travelled some 70 to 100 metres into the field.