

No: 2/91

Ref: EW/G90/11/02

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper J3C-65 (modified), G-BPVH

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Continental C85-12 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1946

**Date and Time (UTC):** 3 November 1990 at 1219 hrs

**Location:** Badminton Airfield, Avon

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Landing gear destroyed. Damage to lower forward fuselage structure and engine cowling, carburettor, air filter and box.

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 42 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 327 hours (of which 86 were on type)

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

After an uneventful flight from Goodwood the pilot landed on runway 36 at Badminton, with a wind of 360°/10 kts. After touchdown the right landing gear leg deflected upwards and then the left landing gear leg also failed. The aircraft subsided gently onto its underside. The right landing gear wishbone folded rearwards, allowing the wheel to foul the door flap.

Initial inspection showed that all the pivot bolts and the cabane attachment bolts were intact and properly installed. Although the left bungee strut was bent upwards at its outer end, both bungee units were intact. The right cabane strut had collapsed and caused considerable damage to its fuselage attachment, but the eye end of the left cabane strut had failed without causing any distress to the surrounding structure, nor to the remaining portion of the strut. Although the failure of this weld was considered to be overload, there was very little weld penetration and there was also evidence of a repair to the eye-end of the strut.