

Pietenpol Aircamper, G-PIET

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/08/15	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pietenpol Aircamper, G-PIET	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental C90-12F piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1999	
Date & Time (UTC):	31 August 2004 at 1401 hrs	
Location:	RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 2 (Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	15,000 hours (of which 50 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 133 hours	
	Last 28 days - 71 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Weather conditions were good with a north-westerly wind of between 5 and 10 kt. Runway 26 was in use and its grass surface was dry; its length was 826 metres and its width 45 metres. The aircraft was being flown by a pilot undergoing a check flight; he had 368 hours total flying experience of which 10 were on the Aircamper. During the take-off roll, at less than take-off speed, the aircraft hit a bump and bounced into the air. Two larger bounces followed and at the top of the third bounce the left wing dropped. The instructor took control and ensured that the control stick was fully forward; however, the other pilot had already placed the stick in that position. The aircraft descended whilst still turning to the left and the left undercarriage hit the ground and collapsed. The propeller then struck the ground, the aircraft ground looped to the left, the right undercarriage leg collapsed and the tail skid dug into the ground causing the tail section to break. The aircraft remained upright and the pilots, who were both wearing full harnesses, only suffered minor injuries; they were able to vacate the aircraft without assistance.

The instructor considered that the wind, which was variable, might have changed direction just as the aircraft became airborne causing a loss of airspeed and the left wing drop.