

No: 6/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Piper J3C-65 G-BJAY

No & Type of engines: 1 Continental Motors Corporation A65-F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1944

Date and time (UTC): 22 February 1987 at 1100 hrs

Location: Moorby, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Port main landing gear leg broken and minor damage to the fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 630 hours (of which 80 were on type)

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

During an otherwise uneventful flight from Skegness to Temple Bruer, whilst cruising at 1600 feet, the engine began to lose power. Attempts to rectify this problem were unsuccessful and a forced landing was made in a field. Because the ground was soft and wet, in the last few seconds of the landing roll the port wheel sank into the ground, breaking the port main landing gear leg.

There was no fire and the pilot was wearing a diagonal upper torso restraint which held on impact.

Subsequent investigation has revealed no reason for the engine failure but it is noted that the ambient air temperature was within the range which might suggest carburettor icing.