

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 401, VQ-TLG
No & Type of Engines:	Two Continental TSIO-520-E piston engines
Year of Manufacture:	1969
Date & Time (UTC):	24 July 2009 at 2226 hrs
Location:	Salt Cay, Turks & Caicos Islands
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 5
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - 2 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Propellers and underside of the fuselage
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	25 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,490 hours (of which 105 were on type) Last 90 days - 152 hours Last 28 days - 48 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

History of the flight

VQ-TLG took off from Grand Turk in the Turks and Caicos Islands for a flight to Salt Cay, which is approximately 8 nm to the south-west. The wind was from 110° at 10 kt, the visibility was over 10 km and there was no low-level cloud. As the aircraft descended through approximately 1,000 ft on its approach to Runway 08 at Salt Cay, the left engine failed. The commander feathered the propeller and selected full power on the remaining engine but the aircraft was

unable to maintain altitude. He tried to re-start the left engine but was unsuccessful. The commander judged that the aircraft would not reach the airfield and decided to ditch in a large shallow lake that lay beneath the base leg for the runway. The ditching was successful and all the occupants were able to leave the aircraft through the usual cabin door. At the time of writing, the engines had not been inspected and the cause of the engine failure was unknown.