

No: 12/89

Ref: EW/G89/08/21

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel D120, G-AYRS

No & Type of Engines: Rolls Royce Continental C90-14F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1964

Date and Time (UTC): 17 July 1989 at 1350 hrs

Location: Field near Sommerden Farm, Preston, Humberside

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Landing gear and wings damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 102 hours (of which 35 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone contact with the pilot

After carrying out a pre-flight inspection and the normal power checks, the pilot took-off from Sproatley Air Park for a local flight. The take-off was at full power and the aircraft climbed at its normal rate. At approximately 1000 feet agl, whilst overhead the Humber river, there was a "bang" from the engine and the propeller detached. The pilot switched off the magnetos and turned the aircraft back towards the airfield. He quickly realised that he did not have sufficient height to reach the airfield and so selected a field for an emergency landing. Having carried out the emergency procedures, the pilot carried out a forced landing during which the landing gear and wings were damaged. The pilot was uninjured.

Examination of the engine showed that a connecting rod had failed and ruptured the crankcase. However, during engine strip it was found that two thirds of the starter motor pinion was missing from the starter motor. The missing piece of pinion was found in the engine crankcase.

The pilot recalled that on his first attempt to start the engine that day it had suffered quite a severe "kickback".