

Aircraft type and registration: Minicab GY201, G-BCLM (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1954

Date and time (GMT): 10 September 1983 at 1750 hrs

Location: Winchfield, Hampshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew – 1 Passengers – 1

Injuries: Crew – 1 (fatal) Passengers – 1 (serious)

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's total flying experience: 278 hours (of which 125 hours were in the accident aircraft)

The aircraft which was not equipped with radio took off from a private airstrip near Hook in Hampshire between 1700 and 1715 hrs and flew in the local area until the accident occurred at approximately 1750 hrs.

The weather at the time of the accident was generally good with 3/8 to 5/8 cumulus based at 2500 feet and visibility mostly in excess of 25 km. The 2000 feet wind was easterly at 30 knots and there was a warning of occasional severe turbulence below 8000 feet in force for an area to the west of the accident site.

The passenger stated that the aircraft was in a steep left hand turn at a height of about 3000 feet when the nose suddenly dropped and the aircraft went into a left hand spin or spiral dive. Eye witnesses also reported that at one stage the aircraft exhibited a random motion, similar to that of a falling leaf, rather than a stable spinning motion. The examination of the wreckage, however, established that the aircraft was in fact in a right hand spin when it hit the ground, contrary to the evidence of the passenger.

Detailed examination of the wreckage also revealed that there had been no structural failure prior to impact. The flying controls were properly connected and there was no indication of a jam or restriction. Witness marks showed that at impact the rudder was to the left and the elevator was in the up position. Examination of the engines and its associated controls and systems revealed no fault.