

No: 9/90

Ref: EW/G90/06/28

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: De Havilland DH-82A Tiger-Moth, G-ASKP

No & Type of Engines: 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 1C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1935

Date and Time (UTC): 24 June 1990 at 1055 hrs

Location: Headcorn (Lashenden) Airfield, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to: upper & lower mainplanes; fin & propellor

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 400 hours (of which 9 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

At the end of a flight from Tibenham the pilot encountered a stronger than expected crosswind on runway 28 at Headcorn which exceeded the Tiger Moth's limit. Consequently, he elected to land on the smooth grass of the parachuting Dropping Zone on the north east side of the airfield, as he had done the previous day. The approach was flown directly into wind as indicated by smoke and a windsock. On touchdown the aircraft either bounced or was caught by a gust of wind and became airborne. The pilot applied full power to go around but as he did so the left wing began to rise uncontrollably. The right wing touched the ground whereupon the aircraft slewed to the right and the pilot, anticipating a ground-loop, closed the throttle. The aircraft continued to pivot to the right through about 100° before it pitched forward and overturned. The occupants, who were wearing full harness and protective helmets, were unhurt and vacated the aircraft without difficulty. The wind was reported as south-westerly at 15 kts gusting to 20 kts.