

Gardan GY80-180 Horizon, G-AWAC

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/07/23	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Gardan GY80-180 Horizon, G-AWAC	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-A3A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1967	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 July 2003 at 1110 hrs	
Location:	Near Semley, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - 2 Minor
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	68 hours (of which 5 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 20 hours	
	Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After an uneventful flight from Popham the pilot made an approach to grass Runway 26 at Compton Abbas Airfield, the aircraft ballooned in the flare to land and a go-around was executed. The aircraft bounced on touchdown from the second approach and the pilot initiated another go-around. At an early stage of the downwind leg for his next approach, the engine stopped and a wheels up forced landing was made into a grass field. Subsequent inspection of the fuel tanks showed them to be completely dry and examination of the aircraft revealed the fuel drain cap and spring mechanism to be missing. A search was carried out at Compton Abbas and at the forced landing field but the items were not located. The pilot and one of his passengers both recall the fuel drain being in place during the pre-flight walk round checks.