

No: 12/90

Ref: EW/G90/08/28

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Replica Sopwith Triplane, G-PENY

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B1B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date and Time (UTC): 12 August 1990 at 1515 hrs

Location: Northampton (Sywell) Aerodrome, Northamptonshire

Type of flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to major airframe components

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 282 hours (of which 8 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was conducting a series of touch and go landings in light wind conditions. On his first approach, an undemanded roll to the left was noted on crossing the threshold, but this did not prevent a satisfactory landing. On his second approach, the pilot decided to add 5 kt to his previous threshold speed and fly a flatter approach to improve control response. When 100 metres from the threshold, the left wing again dropped and a high sink rate developed. The pilot applied full power and the aircraft landed heavily before becoming airborne again. During this landing the swing axles reached their mechanical stops and bent slightly. The pilot reports that the subsequent landing was gentle but the damage sustained on the first landing allowed the spreader bar between the wheels to dig into the grass runway causing the aircraft to nose over onto its back. One shoulder strap of the pilot's full harness failed when the aircraft inverted but he was able to evacuate the open cockpit with only minor injuries.