

No: 2/83

Ref: EW/G82/12/09

Aircraft: Cessna 172 G-AYXX

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date and time (GMT): 31 December 1982 at 1110 hrs

Location: Lydd Airport

Type of flight: Training (aircraft parked)

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Heat and smoke damage to instrument panel, radios and windscreens

Commander's Licence: Student

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's total flying experience: 50 hours (of which 15 hours were on type)

The pilot had just begun his pre-flight check of the aircraft. After turning on the master switch and making a flaps down selection, smoke was seen to issue from under the left side instrument panel as the flaps were lowered. The pilot turned off the master switch and promptly left the aircraft with the intention of obtaining a fire extinguisher.

Airport and local fire services personnel were called to the scene and quickly put out the fire, but not before sufficient damage had been caused to make the aircraft uneconomic to repair. At no time were flames reported to have been seen.

A subsequent examination of the aircraft by maintenance personnel revealed the fire to have begun within the electrical wiring behind the instrument panel, but the precise origin was not determined.

It was noted that the flap operating system appeared to function normally on the aircraft's previous flight.