

No: 10/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/14

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Gardan GY80-160 Horizon, G-AZRX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B3B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1963

Date & Time (UTC): 14 August 1991 at 1050 hrs

Location: Sandtoft airfield, South Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 74 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 152 hours (of which 4 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot
and additional telephone enquiries

Runway 23 at Sandtoft has a displaced threshold 600 feet in from the start of the paved surface. Seven hundred feet short of the displaced threshold and about 100 feet to the left of the extended runway centreline there are three grain silos 36 feet high. The entry in Pooley's Flight Guide for Sandtoft contains a warning of turbulence from these silos.

The pilot was making a visual approach to Runway 23 at 70 mph with a reported surface wind of 330°/08 kts. When in a position downwind of the silos, the pilot realised that he was left of the runway centreline and banked to the right. The aircraft stalled, landed heavily and rolled over coming to rest inverted. There was no fire and the pilot, who had suffered minor injury, was able to evacuate the aircraft without difficulty.

The stalling speed of the aircraft is quoted as 58 mph in a 30° banked turn. The stall warning horn was checked when the pilot lowered the landing gear but he does not recall hearing it subsequently.