

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G89/02/06

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luscombe 8A, G-AKUF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp A65-8 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1947

Date and Time (UTC): 21 February 1989 at 1625 hrs

Location: Tory House, Westhyde, Rickmansworth, Herts

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Extensive damage to the right wing, moderate damage to the left wing and fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 21 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 112 hours (of which 37 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone conversations with an engineering organisation.

During the final approach to runway 24 at Denham, the pilot opened the throttle to arrest the descent but the engine response was limited to an increase of 400 rpm, followed by the rpm returning to idle. The pilot, realising that the aircraft would not be able to clear a line of trees that were ahead, turned the aircraft to the right and landed in the back garden of a private residence. As the garden was not long enough to effect a safe ground run without running into the house, the pilot applied right rudder to swing the aircraft into a hedge. This action caused the right wing to strike the ground and the aircraft "ground looped" through the hedge.

Examination of the aircraft by a local engineering company found that there was no fuel present in the aircraft's undamaged fuel tank, or fuel system. No other technical fault was found that would have caused the loss of power.