

No: 6/90

Ref: EW/G90/03/02

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: De Havilland Tiger Moth, VH-HPH

No & Type of Engines: 1 Holden Gypsy Major Series I piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1943 (rebuild 1988)

Date and Time (UTC): 2 March 1990 at 1152 hours

Location: Smarden, near Ashford, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear, elevator, engine and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 556 hours (hours on type not known)

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

The pilot was undertaking a flight from the United Kingdom to Australia to raise money for charity. Whilst flying at 1500 feet over Kent the pilot heard a very loud bang and noticed that the engine rpm was very high. He reduced engine rpm by closing the throttle and then noticed that fabric was peeling away from the leading edge of the upper right wing. A forced landing was carried out, during which damage was sustained to the landing gear and elevator.

Strip examination of the engine by an engineering organisation revealed that the crankshaft had failed. The failed crankshaft was transported to Australia for further examination. It is understood that modifications to prevent or reduce crankshaft failures in this type of engine had been carried out.