

**AAIB Bulletin No:** 10/94

**Ref:** EW/G94/09/02

**Category:** 1.3

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** DH82A Tiger Moth, G-APAP

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Gipsy Major 1 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1940

**Date & Time (UTC):** 4 September 1994 at 1400 hrs

**Location:** The Park, Kingston, Deverill, Wiltshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Aircraft destroyed

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 59 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 499 hours (of which 9 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 13 hours  
Last 28 days - 5 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During an aero-tow glider launch, the wind was mainly in the direction of the runway. The pilot of the towing aircraft was looking over the left side of the cockpit in order to maintain a straight ground run. Shortly before the aircraft had attained flying speed he felt it begin to veer to the right and, looking over to that side, saw that the right wingtip was scraping along the ground. As he was unable to raise the wing with aileron and rudder and since he was approaching a deep gully which separated the side of the grass runway from a ploughed field, he decided to release the glider and to try and become airborne before rolling into the gully.

The sudden release of the glider increased the swing but allowed a small acceleration, such that the aircraft momentarily became airborne whilst crossing the gully, before landing in the ploughed field. The swing continued through about 130° and the aircraft collided with a small copse.

Although the destruction of the aircraft was considerable, the pilot's full safety harness remained intact and there was no fire.