

No: 8/89

Ref: EW/G89/05/12

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-ATPN

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date and Time (UTC): 30 May 1989 at 1906 hrs

Location: Near Clacton Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial - to right wing tip, right tailplane tip, and sheared nose wheel oleo

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Assistant Instructor Ratings

Commander's Age: 28 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 294 hours (of which 254 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the Pilot, CAA Occurrence Report, and AAIB enquiries

The aircraft was on an instructional flight and the instructor had checked that there was approximately 45 minutes fuel endurance in the right tank, and 2 hours 45 minutes in the left tank.

During the flight the instructor had been teaching the student the FRED A (Fuel /Radio/Engine/DGI/Altitude) check. The flight had commenced with the right tank selected, but the instructor was under the impression that the left tank was now selected. After 40 minutes of flight the engine failed, and despite the usual checks, changing of tanks, selection of the fuel pump and reselecting the magneto switch, the engine failed to restart and a forced landing was carried out into a wheatfield. In order to avoid trees at the far end of the field, the aircraft was turned to the left on the ground, and sustained substantial damage.

The occupants were wearing diagonal upper torso restraint and evacuated the aircraft normally. There was no fire.