

No: 7/92

Ref: EW/G92/05/05

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper J3C-65 Cub, G-AJAO

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1943

Date & Time (UTC): 3 May 1992 at 1630 hrs

Location: Peterlee airstrip, Shotton, County Durham

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - 1 minor Passengers - 1 minor

Nature of Damage: Landing gear and propeller destroyed. Nose cowling crushed and engine damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 223 hours (of which 118 were on type)
Last 90 days - 31 hours
Last 28 days - 12 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The wind at the strip was 210°/15 kt and the aircraft landed in a westerly direction, as nearly into wind as the shape of the field allowed. Two days previously, unknown to either occupant of the aircraft, the local authority had erected a series of five feet high wooden posts, which marked a public right of way across the threshold of the landing strip.

The pilot states that in the sunlight the posts were not clearly visible from the air and, just prior to touchdown, the landing gear struck one of them. The impact collapsed the landing gear and pitched the nose of the aircraft down, causing it to strike the ground with the underside of the nose cowling and the propeller.

There was no fire and both occupants, who had been wearing lapstrap safety harnesses, left the aircraft through the door.