No: 11/89 Ref: EW/G89/08/08 Category: 1c

Aircraft Type

and Registration: DH60 Gipsy Moth, G-AANF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Wright Aeronautical Corp Gipsy 1 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1929

Date and Time (UTC): 8 August 1989 at 1100 hrs

Location: East Stratton, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed by fire.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's Total

Flying Experience: 1,300 hours (of which 70 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a flight from Liss to Popham and was being accompanied by a PA 18 which was in contact with Farnborough Radar. Overhead East Stratton, the Gypsy Moth experienced a loss of power and the pilot elected to carry out a precautionary landing. The landing was satisfactory. The pilot had shut down the engine and climbed out of the cockpit before he became aware of burning straw under the tail. Attempts to remove the straw and extinguish the fire were unsuccessful, and the aircraft was rapidly engulfed in flames. The fuel tank exploded, resulting in a substantial fire and some damage to trees and bushes surrounding the field.

The accompanying PA 18 advised Farnborough of the situation. A Puma helicopter was directed to the scene, using the PA 18's primary radar return for position.