Ref: EW/G89/05/09

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Aeronca Chief, G-AKUO
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental A-65 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1946
Date and Time (UTC):	29 May 1989 at 1050 hrs
Location:	Twyford, Berks
Type of Flight:	Private (pleasure)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor to aircraft nose, left struts and rudder
Commander's Licence:	Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings
Commander's Age:	40 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	475 hours (of which 15 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot planned a routine cross-country flight which was estimated to last 1 hr 50 minutes starting and finishing at White Waltham. Before flight the fuel contents gauge reading and a physical check of the fuel in the tank agreed and the pilot estimated that the tank contained 10 gallons, enough for at least 2½ hours duration. The pilot considered that despite his relative inexperience on type there was an adequate safety margin for the planned flight.

After about 1 hr 40 minutes, the aircraft was approaching White Waltham. The pilot noted a fuel gauge reading of just under ¼ full which agreed with his flight plan fuel useage. When at a range of about 5 nms from the airfield, with the mixture fully rich and carburettor heat selected to 'ON', the engine lost all power. During the subsequent forced landing procedure, the engine burst into life twice but failed to continue running. When the pilot considered that a forced landing was inevitable he switched off the magnetos and fuel. The aircraft landed slowly in standing crop and nosed over onto its back. The pilot's lap and diagonal harness held an impact and he was uninjured.

Having righted his aircraft the pilot noted that the fuel gauge still read just under ¼ full but there appeared to be no fuel in the tank. No significant fuel spillage was observed.