

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603742**

**Thunder & Colt Ltd
160A**

10 November 1996

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199603742 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: Campbelltown
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 10 November 1996
Time: 0755 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Thunder & Colt Ltd
Aircraft Model: 160A
Aircraft Registration: VH-HGC **Serial Number:** 733
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Minor
Departure Point: Menangle Village NSW
Departure Time:
Destination: Campbelltown NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	750.0	7500

Approved for Release: Wednesday, January 22, 1997

The balloon was conducting a passenger carrying flight from Picton to the Campbelltown area, with an intermediate landing at Menangle. The forecast wind was a 14 knot southerly at 1,000 ft. However, during the first flight the pilot determined the prevailing wind to be calm below 500 ft. During the second stage, the pilot noted that the wind above 500 ft was backing to the west although it's speed was not increasing.

With the balloon now heading towards the Holsworthy forest, the pilot decided to land early and made an approach to a large paddock beyond a small dam next to a road. The pilot subsequently reported that, late in the approach, the wind speed suddenly increased to about 15 kt accompanied by a strong wind shear. He also encountered strong downdraughts as the balloon crossed a tree line alongside the road. He attempted to overshoot from the approach, but the balloon continued to descend.

The balloon touched down firmly but was carried into the dam by the wind. A nearby powerline held up the balloon envelope as the basket drifted across the dam and grounded on the bank. Neither the pilot or any of the passengers were hurt.