

**Accident occurred on 12 March 1997 at Jours-les-Baigneux (21).
to the Piper J3 registered F-BMH**

report f-mh970312a

Event (incident):	Precautionary forced landing.
Cause	established: Pilot lost, fuel running out.

Consequences and damage: None.

Type of aircraft: Piper J 3.

Date and time: Wednesday 12 March 1997 at 15 h 45.

Operator: Private.

Place: Jours-les-Baigneux (21).

Type of flight: Trip.

Persons on board: Pilot + 1.

Qualifications and experience: Pilot aged 75, TT issued 1956, IFR rating, 3,237 flying hours.

Meteorological conditions: CAVOK.

Circumstances

On a trip from Nancy to La Ferté-Alais, the pilot got lost while trying to avoid military zones. He ended up well to the south of his planned route.

Reaching the limit of fuel endurance, he chose a field and performed a forced landing.

A check of the remaining fuel performed with the manual gauge indicated 5 to 6 liters of fuel left.