

Aircraft type and registration:	Piper PA 25-235D Pawnee G-BEKS (light single engined, fixed wing aircraft)	
Year of manufacture:	1976	
Date and time (GMT):	10 July 1984, 1630 hrs	
Location:	Barham, Kent	
Type of flight:	Aerial application	
Persons on board:	Crew — 1	Passengers — Nil
Injuries:	Crew — Nil	Passengers — Nil
Nature of damage:	Aircraft destroyed	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	39 years	
Commander's total flying experience:	5234 hours (of which 4800 hours were on type)	
Information Source:	Accident Report Pro Forma completed by the Pilot	

The pilot was engaged in applying a mixture of Di-1-P-Menthane and Iprodione in liquid form to a field of oil seed rape. The crop at that time was standing 5—6 feet high. The field, which had not been previously treated by aerial application, was situated at the bottom of a valley and was crossed diagonally by an electricity supply wire approximately 25 feet above the ground.

The field had been completed except for two runs opposite a house on the field boundary which the pilot had left until last when the aircraft would be lighter. The position of the house and electricity wire made it necessary to fly a curved and steeply descending approach path to fly under the wire 2 feet above the crop to minimise the spray drift. As the pilot checked the descent rate under the wire, the main wheels touched the crop and caused the aircraft to dive into the ground. There was no fire.

The aircraft was damaged beyond economic repair. The pilot, who had been wearing a helmet and full harness in the locked position was uninjured, and was able to evacuate from the aircraft without assistance.