

1 Aircraft type and registration: Cessna 182 G-BHEI (light single-engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date and time (GMT): 16 July 1983 at 1417 hrs

Location: Shobdon Aerodrome

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — 1 (fatal) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 69 years

Commander's total flying experience: 8150 hours (estimated) with substantial experience on type

2 Aircraft type and registration: Mooney 20K N1061T (light single-engined fixed-wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and time (GMT): 16 July 1983 at 1417 hrs

Location: Shobdon Aerodrome

Persons on board: Crew — 2 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Major damage to right wing

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (FAA)

Commander's Age: 36 years

Commander's total flying experience: 499 hours (of which 400 were on type)

Whilst practising for an air race, both aircraft were approaching Shobdon aerodrome, which was one of the turning-points for the anti-clockwise course. N1061T, the faster aircraft, had a crew of two, whilst G-BHEI was being flown solo. At a height of approximately 650 feet above ground level, with an estimated in-flight visibility of 8 kilometres, N1061T had flown direct from the previous marker, and was beginning to turn left on to its next heading when the crew suddenly saw G-BHEI to their right, at the same height, with wings level, very close. At the time N1061T was passing through an approximately westerly heading, whilst G-BHEI was steering approximately south-west, and it was obvious that the two aircraft were converging. The pilot of N1061T immediately steepened his bank and pulled hard on the control column in an attempt to avoid a collision. Almost simultaneously G-BHEI banked to the right, but the trailing edge of its left wing was struck by the leading edge of N1061T's right wing. G-BHEI lost the outer four feet of its wing, which separated from the aircraft together with the associated section of aileron, and rolled left into a steep dive from which it did not recover. It struck the ground within the aerodrome boundary at high speed, killing the pilot instantly. N1061T sustained major damage to the leading edge of its right wing, at approximately mid-span, but the pilot was able to retain control and make a successful landing at Shobdon.