

No: 11/83

Ref: EW/G83/07/16

Aircraft type and registration:	W H E Airbuggy G-AXYX (Autogyro)
Year of manufacture:	1975. Rebuilt 1983
Date and time (GMT):	30 July 1983 at 1450 hrs
Location:	Melbourne (5 miles SE of York)
Type of flight:	Private
Persons on board:	Crew -- 1 Passengers -- Nil
Injuries	Crew -- Nil Passengers -- Nil
Nature of damage:	Main rotor destroyed. Propeller broken and under-carriage bent
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age :	53 years
Commander's total flying experience:	541 hours (15 hours on type)

The pilot intended to fly some practice circuits at 500 ft. After a normal take-off, the aircraft climbed 300 feet but would climb no higher despite the engine indications being normal. The pilot elected to make an immediate landing in a field next to the aerodrome. The field selected proved to be rougher than it had appeared from the air and substantial damage was incurred by a hard landing.

The weather at the time was clear, hot (25°C) and with very little wind.

No reason has been found for the apparent loss of climb performance.