

No: 11/89

Ref: EW/G89/10/01

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Everett Autogyro, G-OGOS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1834 cc piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1984

Date and Time (UTC): 1 October 1989 at 1620 hrs

Location: St Merryn, Cornwall

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - 1 (minor) Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence, Group A

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 152 hours (of which 6 hours were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had received approximately two hours of instruction during the afternoon covering various ground control exercises and low and high hops up to 150 feet. He was briefed by the CFI for a final exercise consisting of a circuit of the airfield at 400 feet.

The autogyro was climbed at 50 kt to 200 feet when a reduction in power was noticed; a return to the airfield was attempted but, on turning downwind, the engine began to splutter and the rpm dropped to about 1300. The pilot decided that a forced landing was inevitable and selected a site in a field, the engine was still running at low rpm and was left on for its residual thrust. At approximately 50 feet the engine suddenly produced full power for 5 seconds taking the autogyro to the edge of the field. A vertical landing was attempted in order to avoid the boundary hedge and the autogyro sustained a heavy impact with the ground.

The pilot attributed his chest injuries to tensioning of the harness when the mast failed and suspected that carburettor icing may have been the cause of the engine failure.

Weather conditions were:

Relative Humidity	82%
Temperature	15°C
Cloud	3 octas at 1000 feet
Visibility	6 km