

**No: 4/84**

**MICROLIGHT**

**Ref: EW/G83/10/07**

**Aircraft type and registration:** Pteradactyl G-MBAW (single engined microlight aircraft)

**Year of manufacture:** 1981

**Date and time (GMT):** 23 October 1983 at about 1700 hrs

**Location:** The beach at Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire

**Type of flight:** Private

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — Nil

**Injuries:** Crew — Nil                      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Minor airframe damage

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence for motorised gliders

**Commander's Age:** 38 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 152 hours (of which 143 hours were on type)

The aircraft was on a local flight in the Milford-on-Sea area. An eye-witness, a serving officer in the Royal Air Force, reports that he observed the aircraft fly a circuit of the beach at an estimated height of 500 feet above sea level. After the first circuit it became apparent that the pilot was positioning the aircraft for an approach to a sandbank which was some 50 metres from the shore. The aircraft completed an approach and then overshot from a height of about 5 feet above the sandbank. A second circuit was flown, and on this occasion the aircraft was observed to touch down on the sand. Immediately after touch down the engine power was heard to increase; however, before the aircraft could become airborne again, the main wheels ran into the water and the aircraft overturned nose first into the sea. The witness ran to the water's edge and saw that the pilot had managed to swim clear of the aircraft. A lifeguard's rope was thrown to the pilot who attached it to the aircraft. The aircraft and pilot were then hauled ashore by the witness and other spectators.