

**No: 8/84**

**Ref: EW/G84/07/02**

**Aircraft type and registration:** Luton Minor G-ATFW (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

**Year of manufacture:** 1967

**Date and time (GMT):** 3 July 1984 at 1220 hrs

**Location:** 1 nm northwest of Skegness airfield

**Type of flight:** Private (pleasure)

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

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

**Nature of damage:** Propeller broken, undercarriage bent, wings and engine cowling damaged

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 27 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 62 hours (of which 6 hours were on type)

**Information Source:** Accident Report Pro-forma signed by Commander

Shortly after take-off from runway 35 at Skegness, whilst in a climbing turn to the left at approximately 400 feet agl, the engine noise increased suddenly and the engine started to vibrate harshly. The pilot levelled the aircraft, lowered the nose, checked that the magnetos and fuel were 'on' and applied carburettor heat. However, height would not be maintained even with full power applied and the decision was made to land ahead in a grass field. As the field was approached, a large barbed wire fence was observed in the landing area. The pilot successfully cleared this fence, flew beneath some power cables beyond the fence, just cleared a second fence and drainage dyke bounding the up-wind end of the field and touched down in the adjoining field of standing barley. The aircraft was quickly brought to rest by the crop and nosed over. The pilot was uninjured and was able to rapidly release himself from the aircraft.

It was subsequently noted that one of the engine's spark plugs was not present.