

Aircraft type and registration: Hiller UH 12E G-BDOH (light single engined helicopter)

Year of manufacture: 1962

Date and time (GMT): 2 August 1983 at 1250 hrs

Location: Maff Farm, Tennington, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Type of flight: Crop spraying (aerial application)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 0

Injuries: Crew — 0 Passengers — 0

Nature of damage: Aircraft extensively damaged

Commander's Licence: Commercial

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's total flying experience: 600 hours

The aircraft was engaged in crop-spraying operations when the pilot became aware of vibration and the aircraft began to yaw to the right.

Accordingly, the pilot corrected the yaw and carried out a run-on landing without power. As the aircraft lost speed, however, the nose dug in to the crop, the aircraft pitched forward and then rolled over on its starboard side.

Examination of the engine revealed that a major internal failure had occurred. It appeared that a big-end journal cap had separated from its connecting rod causing massive internal damage to the crank-case casting and to one of the pistons.

A detailed examination revealed that the secondary damage to the engine components was sufficiently severe as to make it impossible to establish the initial cause of the separation of the big-end cap.