

No: 4/84

Ref: EW/G84/03/04

**Aircraft type and registration:** Maule M5-235C G-BHJK (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

**Year of manufacture:** 1980

**Date and time (GMT):** 11 March 1984 at approximately 1645 hrs

**Location:** Galleywood, 2 miles south of Chelmsford, Essex

**Type of flight:** Pleasure, private

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

**Injuries:** Crew — Nil                      Passengers — Nil

**Nature of damage:** Minor, left landing gear required replacement

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

**Commander's Age:** 48 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 267 hours (of which 200 hours were on type)

The aircraft was on a flight from a private strip at Great Leighs, and intended to return there. The pilot reports that, after selecting carburettor heat because the engine was running slightly roughly, he checked the engine instruments and became convinced that the oil pressure was low. Accordingly he attempted a precautionary landing on nearby common-land, but a power cable appeared ahead at a height of approximately 20 feet agl. He therefore pulled the aircraft up over the cable, where it stalled, and the left wing dropped. The nose was lowered and full power applied; however, during the subsequent rotation and climb away, the left main gear touched the ground and suffered slight distortion. The pilot states that, on checking the instruments again, he realised that the oil pressure was normal, and had been throughout. He attributes his misreading of the oil pressure gauge to the colour coding on this particular instrument. After RTF contact with Stansted, the aircraft was flown to Andrewsfield, a grass airfield 4 nm WNW of Braintree, where a successful landing was carried out. The occupants were uninjured.