

Aircraft type and registration: Currie Wot G—BANV
(homebuilt light single-engined biplane aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1974

Date and time (GMT): 15 September 1983 at 1220 hrs

Location: 2 miles SW of Leek, Staffordshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — Nil

Nature of damage: Undercarriage bent backwards into lower wing; propeller broken; damage to underside of engine and cowlings

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's total flying experience: 290 hours (of which 20 were on type)

The pilot was en route from Shobden to Finningley to take part in the King's Cup air race. The main cloud base was 2,500 ft, lowering to 1,500 ft in frequent, heavy showers. After circumnavigating two large rain showers, the pilot found himself left of track and over rising ground. He turned back to make for lower ground but found his return track barred by another large rain shower. He decided to land in a suitable field and wait for better weather. He touched down on a smooth grass surface that sloped upwards approximately 20°, but, after rolling for some 15 metres, the wheels dug into the turf, the undercarriage folded rearwards and the aircraft came to rest on its nose.