

Aircraft type and registration: Socata MS 893A Rallye Commodore 180 G-AVAK (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1967

Date and time (GMT): 6 March 1985 at 1037 hrs

Location: Buttergask Farm, Nr Perth, Scotland

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 2

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Undercarriage lost on impact, underside of fuselage, and wings extensively damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's total flying experience: 150 hours (of which 90 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

Shortly after beginning a flight from Perth to Kirkwall (whilst at 2300 ft QNH), there was a sudden onset of severe vibration. The pilot immediately initiated an engine-off forced landing, at the same time making a 'Mayday' call.

The airspeed was reduced to a minimum in the hope of stopping the propeller. After selecting 10° of flap, the battery master switch was moved to the 'off' position, the fuel was selected to 'off', and a forced-landing field chosen.

Because of overhead power lines the landing took place in a field beyond this one. The aircraft touched down with a low forward speed and came to rest after 10 to 15 yards, the undercarriage having separated at impact. All three occupants evacuated the aircraft immediately.

Inspection of the aircraft revealed that a section of one propeller blade tip, approximately 5 inches long, had separated in flight.