

No: 5/85

Ref: EW/G85/03/05

Aircraft type and registration:	Wallis WA 116F G-ATHL (light single engined autogyro)
Year of Manufacture:	1965
Date and time (GMT):	5 March 1985 at 1035 hrs
Location:	Near Shipdham Airfield, Norfolk
Type of flight:	Training
Persons on board:	Crew — 1 Passengers — None
Injuries:	Crew — None Passengers — None
Nature of damage:	Damage to main rotor blades, rotor head assembly and propeller
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	48 years
Commander's total flying experience:	6201 hours (of which approx 7 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot.

The pilot was an experienced helicopter pilot who was undertaking a training course on the Wallis Autogyro. He had been authorised for a navigation exercise, and after take-off from Shipdham airfield had turned left before leaving the circuit. There had been a crosswind during his take-off and this left turn resulted in his now flying downwind. He experienced at this time an apparent power reduction and he tried selecting the carburettor air intake to 'Hot' without gaining any improvement. Full power was selected but, with a reduced airspeed, he was only just able to maintain height and he decided to carry out a precautionary landing in what appeared to be open pasture. It was, in fact, a crop of early wheat and after touching down on the mainwheels at a low forward airspeed the nose wheel touched and then sank into the soft soil causing the aircraft to pitch forward until the main rotor struck the ground. The aircraft rolled onto its side but the pilot was able to step out without injury.