

Aircraft type and registration:	Sportavia RF-5B G-KCIG (single-engined motorised glider)	
Year of manufacture:	1972	
Date and time (GMT):	7 May 1984 at about 1600 hrs	
Location:	Caddiford Farm, near Crediton, Devonshire	
Type of flight:	Private	
Persons on board:	Crew – 1	Passengers – Nil
Injuries:	Crew – Nil	Passengers – N/A
Nature of damage:	Substantial damage to the aircraft's wings and main structure; minor damage to a field boundary fence	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	32 years	
Commander's total flying experience:	133 hours (of which 77 were on type)	

The aircraft, with the pilot and one passenger on board, was on a local VFR flight from Exeter Airport; the purpose of the flight was primarily to be gliding experience. After approximately 2½ hours of engine-off gliding flight, the pilot reports that attempts to restart the engine were unsuccessful due, he believes, to a flat battery. A further attempt to restart the engine by diving the aircraft and windmilling the propeller was also unsuccessful, and accordingly he elected to land the aircraft in a convenient field. The landing was completed without incident.

After he had reported his situation, by telephone to Exeter Airport Air Traffic Control, the pilot returned to the field and established that the engine would restart by hand swinging the propeller. He then walked the field in order to assess the surface conditions and the take-off run available. The field had a grass surface and the take-off run available on a magnetic heading of 085° was assessed as 256 metres and slightly uphill. There was a 1.5 metre high fence at the up-wind boundary. The surface wind was estimated to be from 070°/15 to 20 kt with gusts up to about 25 kt, and the pilot decided to make a solo take-off. He reports that the aircraft appeared to accelerate to normal flying speed, however on rotation he was unable to establish and maintain a sufficient rate of climb to clear the boundary fence. The aircraft struck the fence and came to rest some 35 metres further on in an adjacent field. The pilot, who was wearing upper torso restraint, was uninjured.