

No: 9/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Amateur Construction Pazmany PL-4A G-SEAR

No & Type of engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 (Becar) piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1982

Date and time (UTC): 12 July 1987 at 1526 hrs

Location: Milton Cross, Nr Shobdon Airfield, Leominster, Hereford

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — 1 (minor) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Severe

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 243 hours (of which 68 were on type)

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

Following a satisfactory power check, the aircraft took-off and established a normal climb at 60 knots. All indications were normal until at about 300 feet, the engine suffered a sudden and complete loss of power. Pumping the throttle and selecting individual magnetos failed to restore any power. The pilot selected a field of standing barley for his forced landing and flared just above the crop. On contacting the barley, the aircraft yawed to the left. Subsequent contact with the ground caused the aircraft to come to rest inverted. The pilot's full upper torso restraint harness held on impact and he was uninjured. After having some difficulty releasing his harness, the pilot escaped through the partially shattered canopy sustaining minor injuries. There was no fire and the emergency services responded promptly. The pilot reported that subsequent examination of the engine revealed that both magneto drive belts had failed.