

**AAIB Bulletin No:** 5/94      **Ref:** EW/G94/03/10      **Category:** 1.4

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Pegasus XL-Q, G-MVJS  
**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Rotax 462 piston engine  
**Year of Manufacture:** 1989  
**Date & Time (UTC):** 19 March 1994 at 1600 hrs  
**Location:** Dunkeswell Airfield, near Honiton, Devon  
**Type of Flight:** Private (Training)  
**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1      Passengers - None  
**Injuries:** Crew - None      Passengers - N/A  
**Nature of Damage:** Bent mono-pole, right sail torn and leading edge spar dented; two Cessna 152 aircraft parked nearby were also damaged  
**Commander's Licence:** Student Pilot  
**Commander's Age:** 63 years  
**Commander's Flying Experience:** 23 hours (of which 15 hours were on type)  
Last 90 days - 8 hours  
Last 28 days - 1 hour  
**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following a cross-country navigation exercise from Weston Zoyland to Dunkeswell the pilot had booked out and was preparing for his return flight. He reports that he was initially unable to start the microlight aircraft's engine and he therefore removed the sparking plugs to dry them off and also checked the ignition system. After re-assembling the engine he made ready for a second start. At this time the aircraft was parked with its right wingtip on the ground and the 'A' frame secured to it by a cord. Unfortunately the second start was initiated with the throttle open and immediately the engine fired it accelerated to full power. The aircraft leapt forward and the retaining cord broke, resulting in the 'A' frame moving rearwards and forcing the control bar across the pilot's chest. In this position he was unable either to control the aircraft or reach the ignition switch which was located below his knees. Although the foot brake was immediately applied it was ineffective at the high power setting and the aircraft collided with two parked Cessna 152 aircraft before coming to a halt. The pilot, who was secured with a single lap strap released himself from the aircraft without injury. The damage to the two Cessna 152s is reported to be minor.