

No: 3/83

Ref: EW/G83/03/04

Aircraft: Gardan Mini Cab G-BBFL (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1950

Date and time (GMT): 7 March 1983 at 1100 hrs

Location: Wellesbourne Mountford Aerodrome

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - Nil

Nature of damage: Port mainwheel leg detached, starboard mainwheel leg bent, propeller shattered, possible structural damage to port wing

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's total flying experience: 78 hours (of which 10 hours were on type)

The aircraft was taking off on tarmac runway 36 with a surface wind of 320°/8-10 kts. About halfway along a normal take-off run the pilot detected a swing to port, but his corrective rudder was not firm enough to stop the aircraft from leaving the left-hand edge of the runway. As it crossed on to the grass the pilot made a more positive correction, which resulted in a violent swing to starboard. As it regained the runway the aircraft slid sideways, removing the port undercarriage, and bending the starboard leg; the propeller was shattered, and the port wing possibly suffered structural damage. There was no fire, and both occupants escaped without injury. After the accident the pilot considered that the second, violent swing might have been aggravated by the starboard mainwheel running on to the rougher surface just as right rudder was applied.