

No: 2/83

Ref: EW/G83/01/06

Aircraft: McDonnell Douglas DC-9-51 OE-LDO

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (GMT): 12 January 1983 at 0909 hrs

Location: London (Heathrow)

Type of flight: Scheduled passenger

Persons on board: Crew - 6 Passengers - 43

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - Nil

Nature of damage: Minor damage to starboard main landing gear door

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's total flying experience: 9260 hours (of which 7065 hours were on type)

The aircraft landed on runway 28R with all systems operating and all cockpit indications normal. As the aircraft cleared the runway, airport staff in a vehicle positioned close to the turn-off reported to Ground Control that something could be seen hanging down from the aircraft near the right-hand main landing gear. This message was relayed to the pilot, who stopped the aircraft on the outer taxiway, shut down the starboard engine and called for an engineer. The right-hand main landing gear door was found to be unlatched and jammed between the surface of the taxiway and the underside of the aircraft.

Subsequent inspection showed that high friction in the operating cable of the right main landing gear door had caused a rivet to shear on the torque tube lever. The signal to the door control valve had been interrupted and the door had been opened by hydraulic pressure at some time during the landing roll.

The Operator has inspected all other similar aircraft in the fleet for abnormal friction in the cable system and for correct adjustment of the main landing gear sequence. The Operator has also suggested that the main landing gear door warning light should be disconnected from the dimming system.