

No: 9/87

Ref: 2b

Aircraft type and registration: Beech E55 G-BFEE

No & Type of engines: 2 Continental Motors Corp 10-520-C piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and time (GMT): 14 June 1987 at 1455 hrs

Location: Guernsey Airport

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial — to underside of the aircraft, right flap and propellers

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 415 hours (of which 280 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AIB telephone enquiries.

The aircraft was on a flight from Brussels to Guernsey. On the approach to runway 27 at Guernsey the landing gear was selected down but the gear down green lights did not illuminate.

The pilot requested permission to fly past the tower so that an external visual inspection could be made and this was approved. On short finals the pilot experienced fumes in the cockpit and on being asked by the controller if he wanted to land, decided to continue to a landing. The controller advised the pilot that the wheels appeared to be down. As the aircraft landed the main landing gear legs collapsed. The fire service was quickly on the scene but there was no fire. Upper torso restraint was being worn and held on impact.

Subsequent examination showed that the nose landing gear did not appear to have extended at all. The main landing gear doors had detached and damage was caused to the underside of the fuselage, right flap and propeller blades. The electrical systems were isolated by pulling the circuit breakers, and electrical power was connected to the aircraft. When the landing gear actuating motor circuit breaker was reset, smoke was observed to be coming from the motor.