

No: 8/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/18

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Evans VP-1, G-BDAH
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 1600 (Peacock) piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1976
Date and Time (UTC):	19 May 1990 at 1140 hrs
Location:	Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury, Wilts
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Tailwheel mounting broken, fabric on tailplane damaged
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and assistant Instructor ratings
Commander's Age:	58 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	778 hours (none on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Unknown to the pilot the tailwheel leaf spring had broken during the aircraft's take-off roll. The pilot of another aircraft that was airborne noticed that there was a problem with the landing gear of the VP-1 and managed, with the aid of hand signals, to indicate the problem to its pilot. The VP-1 returned to its departure airfield where a normal landing was made without further damage.

Examination of one half of the failed leaf spring showed that it had failed in fatigue which had originated at an area of corrosion.