

Aircraft type and registration: Bellanca Champion 7 GCBC G-BAYZ

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming 0-320-A2B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and time (GMT): 22 April 1987 at 1325 hrs

Location: Duxford Airfield, Cambridge

Type of flight: Glider Towing

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Slight

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 660 hours (of which 200 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot reported that on his 8th tow, on this occasion with a passenger, that the final turn was commenced at about 300 feet at 65 mph with $\frac{3}{4}$ flaps and with 1800—2000 engine rpm. The descent seemed to be normal until at a height of about 9 feet a higher rate of sink than expected was encountered and the tow rope snagged briefly on the ground.

Despite attempts to reduce the sink rate the aircraft hit the ground hard in a 3 point attitude and bounced back into the air before landing on the left undercarriage which broke off at its attachment point.

Examination of the failed leg showed evidence of an existing crack and a more detailed analysis is being undertaken.