

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/94

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Category: 1.1

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 737-236, G-BGDR

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt & Whitney JT8D-15 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date & Time (UTC): 15 January 1994 at approx 1200 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 7 Passengers - 60

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to fuselage skin and stringers

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 11,000 hours (of which 3,800 were on type)
Last 90 days - 143 hours
Last 28 days - 45 hours

Information Source: Telephone enquiries made by the AAIB

The aircraft had arrived uneventfully from Gothenburg and was parked on Stand N78. An electric tug vehicle had brought a set of steps to use at the rear left door. The driver stated that he had stopped about six feet from the aircraft to allow another man to get out and release the steps from the tug. When he thought the steps had been released he drove under the tail of the aircraft. The top left edge of the steps came into contact with the fuselage just below the door and about three feet behind it. Damage to the aircraft was confined to the skin and several stringers and consisted of a triangular shaped indentation about one foot long, reaching a width of about five inches at the rear, where the skin had punctured to open a hole about four inches by one inch. The aircraft and steps were removed from service.