

No: 8/92

Ref: EW/G92/05/15

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Fairchild 24R-46A Argus III, G-AJPI  
**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Ranger 6-440-C2 piston engine  
**Year of Manufacture:** 1943  
**Date & Time (UTC):** 16 May 1992 at 1655 hrs  
**Location:** Liverpool Airport, Merseyside  
**Type of Flight:** Private  
**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1  
**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - None  
**Nature of Damage:** Main landing gear collapsed, subsequent damage to the fuselage underside, propeller, engine cowlings & mounts  
**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence  
**Commander's Age:** 42 years  
**Commander's Flying Experience:** 373 hours (of which 19 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 5 hours  
Last 28 days - 2 hours  
**Information Source:** AARF submitted by the pilot, telephone enquiries and metallurgical examination of failed component

After an uneventful flight, the pilot made a normal full flap approach to a 'three point' touchdown on runway 27. The wind was 5kt northerly. Immediately after landing, the left main landing gear collapsed and the aircraft subsequently veered about 45° to the right. The right main leg then collapsed and the aircraft slid sideways to a halt, heading into wind.

Subsequent examination of the aircraft by maintenance personnel found corrosion associated with the failure of the forward of the two lug assemblies which attached the left main landing gear radius arm to the fuselage. This lug was sent to AAIB for examination.

Metallurgical examination of the failed lug assembly indicated that the majority of the failure mechanism had been by ductile overload. There was, however, a number of semi-elliptical areas, suggestive of fatigue propagation at some past time, from which the surface features had been eradicated by corrosion. An examination of the log book record of the aircraft's history showed that it had flown a total of only 1290 hours since it was built in 1944, with a considerable period of complete inactivity in the recent past.