

**No: 8/89** **Ref: EW/G89/06/14** **Category: 1c**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Beech 76, G-JLRW

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Lycoming O-360-A1G6D (Left)  
LO-360-A1G6D (Right) piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1979

**Date and Time (UTC):** 18 June 1989 at 0848 hrs

**Location:** Radlett (disused airfield) nr St Albans, Herts

**Type of Flight:** Private (pleasure)

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial to propellers, underside of skin, left flap bracket, engines shock-loaded

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 41 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 211 hours (of which 132 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB telephone enquiry

The aircraft took off from Leavesden with the pilot in the front left seat, his 12 year old daughter in the front right seat, and his wife and younger daughter occupying the rear seats.

At an altitude of 1,000 feet during the initial climb, the right main door opened, and the girl in the right seat attempted to hold the door closed, assisted by the pilot. Because he was unsure of how long the door could be physically held, or what the outcome would be if the door detached, he decided to land as soon as possible.

The aircraft was close to Radlett and the pilot decided to attempt a landing there. Due to his concern about the aircraft, the runway state at Radlett, and associated factors, he failed to lower the landing gear and the aircraft landed wheels up, causing substantial damage.

The occupants who were wearing lap and diagonal harnesses were uninjured, and there was no fire.