

No: 9/91

Ref: EW/G91/05/03

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Aeronca 7AC Champion, G-BPGK  
**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Continental A65-8F piston engine  
**Year of Manufacture:** 1956  
**Date & Time (UTC):** 7 May 1991 at 1815 hrs  
**Location:** Pencoed Farm, near Llanelli, Dyfed  
**Type of Flight:** Private  
**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1  
**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None  
**Nature of Damage:** Landing gear collapsed, right-hand wing strut bent.  
**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence  
**Commander's Age:** 50 years  
**Commander's Flying Experience:** 241 hours (of which 74 were on type)  
**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft took-off from a private field for a 30 minute local flight. After about 3 minutes and at a height of 800 feet the engine started to run roughly with an accompanying 'knocking sound'. The pilot checked all the engine instruments and controls but found nothing amiss apart from the fact that the engine speed had dropped to 1900 RPM. He elected to land in the nearest available field and throttled-back for a glide approach to a field which appeared suitable and was into-wind. However, the field had an upward slope and the ensuing heavy touchdown caused the landing gear to collapse. The aircraft slid to a halt and the occupants vacated without difficulty.

The pilot examined the engine compartment and noted that one of the four cylinders was cold and concluded that this cylinder was the cause of the rough-running. This was subsequently confirmed when an engine strip revealed that an exhaust valve was embedded in the top of a piston. The engine had been imported from the United States in this aircraft and the log book recorded that the engine had a total of 343 hours since full overhaul at the time of U.K. certification. It had then run a further 71 hours until the failure. The owner has been requested to forward the failed parts to AAIB for metallurgical examination.