

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/95

Ref: EW/G95/05/32

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aeronca Champion 7AC-4621, G-OTOE

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65-8 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1946

Date & Time (UTC): 31 May 1995 at 2030 hrs

Location: Coombe Farm, Crediton, Devon

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 54 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 943 hours (of which 340 were on type)
Last 90 days - 12 hours
Last 28 days - 11 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was making a curved base leg to land on Runway 13 at the farm strip, where wind was two knots from the north west. Approaching short finals, his attention was diverted to a deer in the field below and he consequently overshot the runway extended centreline. As he tightened the turn to correct this, he realised that both the height and the speed were too low, so he levelled the wings, moved the stick slightly forward and applied power. By this time, the aircraft was below the height of a row of trees ahead and in the opinion of the pilot there was nothing else that he could do except reduce the forces of the impending impact by closing the throttle and raising the nose.

The aircraft struck the trees about six feet above ground level and then dropped, nose down, into a four foot deep ditch. Both of the occupants' lap and diagonal harness remained intact and, having switched off the fuel and magnetos, they left the aircraft through the door. There was no fire.