

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/95 **Ref:** EW/G95/09/12 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Champion 7FC Tri-Traveller, G-ARAS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-12F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date & Time (UTC): 14 September 1995 at 1530 hrs

Location: Clipgate Farm, Denton, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Left undercarriage leg broken

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 54 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 129 hours (of which 23 were on type)
Last 90 days - 18 hours
Last 28 days - 9 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On Thursday 14 September, the weather was good and the wind was 190°/10 to 12 kt. The pilot had flown to Lydd where he carried out two landings, following the second of which he uplifted 25 litres of fuel, before returning and landing uneventfully on the grass Runway 20 at Clipgate Farm. The meteorological forecast suggested worsening weather for the Friday and so the pilot decided to spend another 30 minutes practising circuits at Clipgate. After the fourth touch-and-go landing, it became overcast and began to rain heavily, so he decided to curtail the exercise with the next landing.

The landing was a little firmer than the previous ones, which had all been smooth, and during the roll out the left undercarriage leg collapsed. The pilot had time to hold the wing up whilst stopping the engine and the aircraft came to rest with no further damage.

Subsequent investigation showed that the fracture had occurred as a continuance of a pre-existing crack, which showed clear evidence of rust and corrosion. Because of the age of the aircraft and the discovered presence of other such cracks, the entire undercarriage suspension unit is being replaced.