

Aircraft type and registration: Aeronca 7AC G-AVDT (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1948

Date and time (GMT): 6 July 1985 at 1835 hrs

Location: Cranfield Aerodrome, Bedfordshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — 1 (minor) Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Minor damage to right hand main landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 150 hours (of which 30 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The aircraft was on a flight from Seighford, Staffordshire to Cranfield aerodrome. The estimated flight time was 60 minutes, and the pilot reports that prior to leaving Seighford he had uplifted an extra 4 gallons of fuel. When the aircraft was approaching and in sight of Cranfield aerodrome it ran out of fuel and the engine stopped. The grass area alongside the Cranfield runway was occupied by a large number of parked light aircraft, and the pilot elected to make a forced landing in a field north of the aerodrome. During the landing the aircraft sustained minor damage to the right main landing gear.

In his accident report the pilot considers that the aircraft ran out of fuel due to considerable thunderstorm activity along his route, and that avoiding these storms increased his actual flight time. The total time from take off from Seighford to the engine stopping was 65 minutes.