

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/93

Ref: EW/G93/01/16

Category: 1b

Aircraft Type and Registration: Beech 58 Baron, G-BTFT

No & Type of Engines: 2 Continental IO-520-CB piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 29 January 1993 at 0840 hrs

Location: Cranfield Aerodrome, Bedfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to left engine propeller - engine probably shock loaded

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 352 hours (of which 26 were on type)
Last 90 days - 25 hours
Last 28 days - 13 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a planned flight from Cranfield to Liverpool. The pilot reports that, following a rapid turn round at Cranfield to embark the passengers, as the aircraft accelerated close to safety speed on the take off run the light indicating 'landing gear unlocked/in transit' illuminated. He immediately pulled the control column back and, after the aircraft started to climb, noticed that the landing gear selector was in the 'UP' position. He then completed a normal visual circuit and, after selecting the landing gear to 'DOWN', landed back at Cranfield without further incident. Examination of the left engine propeller revealed minor tip damage which was attributed to its contacting the ground shortly before the aircraft became airborne.

In his accident report the pilot concludes that when he first landed at Cranfield he must have inadvertently selected the landing gear 'UP' instead of the flaps.