

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/94

Ref: EW/G94/07/16

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Beech 35-B33 (Modified) Debonair, G-DEBB

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental IO-520-BB piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1963

Date & Time (UTC): 12 July 1994 at 1500 hrs

Location: Canterbury Airfield, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Severe structural damage

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 24 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 413 hours (of which 41 were on type)
Last 90 days - 105 hours
Last 28 days - 61 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft, flying from Luton to Canterbury, made an approach to land on Runway 02, where the wind was 150°/5 kt and, on base leg, the pilot recalls selecting full flap and landing gear 'DOWN'. When the aircraft flared for touchdown the propeller and the under surface of the fuselage struck the ground and the aircraft slid to a stop having slewed through about 150°.

The pilot had previously shown one of his passengers the red painted emergency gear-extension handle, situated between, and to the rear of the pilot's seats, and recalls that he may not have re-stowed it properly. After the accident, he found a box which had traces of red paint on it, which he believes had fallen onto the floor and jammed the handle, causing the circuit breaker to trip and prevent extension of the gear.