

Aeronca Chief 65CA, N33884, 20 September 1998 at 1635 hrs

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Aeronca Chief 65CA, N33884

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C-85 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1941

Date & Time (UTC): 20 September 1998 at 1635 hrs

Location: Sandown Airport, Isle of Wight

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Left main landing gear failed

Commander's Licence: FAA Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 64 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,949 hours (of which 1,374 were on type)

 Last 90 days - 38 hours

 Last 28 days - 17 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being taxied from the parking area by the control tower towards the threshold of Runway 05 for a flight to Branscombe, near Seaton, Devon. Following an exchange with Sandown Radio the pilot was turning the aircraft to the right to enter the runway on the centreline between the threshold markers for a 'take off at his discretion'. During the turn to the right, over some rather bumpy ground, the pilot heard a 'bang' and the aircraft settled down on the left hand side. He turned off the magnetos and fuel and with his passenger vacated the aircraft.

On inspection a hinge bolt in the left main landing gear was found to have failed in overload. The pilot believes that the extra load on the left landing gear in the right turn combined with the effects of the left wheel encountering a hole produced sufficient load to fail the bolt.