

Casa 1-131E Series 2000 Jungermann, G-BECW

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/02/20	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Casa 1-131E Series 2000 Jungermann, G-BECW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Enma Tigre G-IV-B piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1953	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 February 2003 hrs	
Location:	Rochester Airport, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to tail strut	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	2,082 hours (of which 204 were on type) Last 90 days - 19 hours Last 28 days - 10 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After an uneventful landing on grass Runway 20R at Rochester, the pilot was instructed by ATC to back track along grass Runway 34 to the apron. The pilot weaved the aircraft gently to avoid obstructions and pass between concrete runway markers and a displaced threshold marker. As the aircraft passed a runway marker the pilot heard a thump and lost tailwheel steering and suspension. The pilot unlocked the tailwheel, to allow full rudder control, and taxied the aircraft to the apron where it was shut down. Subsequent inspection revealed the tailwheel strut to be distorted and jammed in a trailing position.

Examination of the runway revealed that the tailwheel had entered a nine centimetre deep rut that dragged it up against the concrete runway marker and prevented further forward movement. The momentum of the aircraft had extended the tail strut until failure occurred.