

No: 7/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/17

Category: 5

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cameron A210 Balloon, G-LUCE

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date and Time (UTC): 27 May 1990 at 1925 hrs

Location: Queens Parade, Aldershot, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 10

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - 1 (serious)

Nature of Damage: Nil

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloon)

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 481 hours (of which 5 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The accident occurred as the balloon was landing when one of the passengers sustained a broken ankle. The landing was firm and, despite the presence of the operator's ground crew, the basket dragged along the ground for some 15 metres before coming to rest upright. The commander states that he had twice ordered the passengers to adopt the landing position which requires them to crouch below the rim of the basket with their backs against the wicker sides. He checked that the passengers were below the basket sides as he prepared for a difficult landing in wind conditions that were slightly stronger than anticipated. After landing it was at once apparent that a passenger had suffered an injury and an ambulance was summoned to convey her to hospital. It was noted that she had been wearing high heeled shoes, a practice discouraged by the operator who intends to monitor this aspect more closely in future.