

Aerospatiale SA365N, G-HEMS, 21 February 1997

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Aircraft Type and Registration:	Aerospatiale SA365N, G-HEMS
No & Type of Engines:	2 Turbomeca Arriel 1C turboshaft engines
Year of Manufacture:	1981
Date & Time (UTC):	21 February 1997 at 1053 hrs
Location:	Brixton
Type of Flight:	Public Transport
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2 - Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	All main rotor blades damaged
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	38 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,920 hours (of which 2,845 were on type) Last 90 days -63 hours Last 28 days -21 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a medical evacuation call to a Territorial Army base in Brixton. The weather was good with a surface wind of 250°/13 kt. On arrival, the pilot carried out a reconnaissance of the area; the parade ground was the designated helicopter landing site and had been cleared before the arrival of G-HEMS. The approach and landing were uneventful but, as the pilot lowered the collective lever, he heard a 'bang' and then felt a small vibration through the aircraft controls. After shutting down the engines, the pilot located and identified the cause of the 'bang'; a sign attached to a nearby wall had blown off and entered the rotor disc.