

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198901533**

Beech 76 `Duchess'

24 January 1989

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198901533

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: St Helens Aerodrome TAS

Date: 24 January 1989

Time: 1120

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	4

Aircraft Details: Beech 76 `Duchess'

Registration: VH-MNL

Serial Number: ME-243

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Flinders Island TAS

Departure Time: 1030

Destination: St Helens TAS

Approved for Release: 21st August 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that he made a short field approach to the 080 degree strip in a 10 knot easterly wind. He said that on short final approach some sink was encountered which resulted in the aircraft touching down short of the threshold. The pilot believed that touchdown was normal for a short field approach but the wheel marks on the strip suggested that it may have been heavy. When the aircraft touched down, the right main gear tracking arm (P/N 105-810021-4) broke. This resulted in the wheel assembly detaching. The aircraft skidded to a stop after rotating to the right through about 170 degrees. The broken tracking arm was subjected to microscopic examination which determined that it had failed due to overload. There was no evidence of any fatigue or pre-existing damage. In addition, the damage to the wings was also consistent with a heavy landing.

Significant Factors:

The following factor was considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The aircraft suffered a heavy landing. Although the pilot reported some wind shear on final approach, the precise reason for the heavy landing was not determined.