

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603886**

**Bellanca Aircraft Corp
Super Decathlon**

27 November 1996

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number:	199603886	Occurrence Type:	Accident
Location:	26km SE Archerfield, Aerodrome		
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Wednesday 27 November 1996		
Time:	1415 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Bellanca Aircraft Corp		
Aircraft Model:	8KCAB		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-DEC	Serial Number:	454-78
Type of Operation:	Non-commercial Practice		
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial		
Departure Point:	Archerfield QLD		
Departure Time:			
Destination:	Archerfield QLD		

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	30.0	210

Approved for Release: Friday, December 20, 1996

The pilot reported that the upper half of the aircraft's cabin door separated in flight. The incident occurred when the top front latch came loose, at about 110 kts during the pullout from an aerobatic manoeuvre. The slipstream then pulled the window outwards and it was torn off. As it departed the perspex window and top door frame struck the lower surface of the right wing, tearing the fabric and fracturing 5 ribs.

The pilot was able to land the aircraft safely at Archerfield. He said that control of the aircraft was not greatly affected by the damaged wing.