

Bristol Freighter, Type 170 Mk 31M, C-FDFC, 18 July 1996

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Aircraft Type and Registration:	Bristol Freighter, Type 170 Mk 31M, C-FDFC
No & Type of Engines:	2 Bristol Hercules 734 piston engines
Year of Manufacture:	1955
Date & Time (UTC):	18 July 1996 at 1035 hrs
Location:	Enstone Airfield, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2 Passengers - 6
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - 3 Minor
Nature of Damage:	Substantial airframe damage
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	51 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	11,000 hours (of which 1,300 were on type) Last 90 days - 130 hours Last 28 days - 45 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries by the AAIB

The weather at the departure airfield consisted of a light and variable wind, good visibility and a temperature of 20°C. At the start of the take-off run the aircraft, which was being flown by the co-pilot, who is also an experienced pilot with some 60 hours on type, began to swing to the right. Corrective action caused it to swing to the left but, after further correction, the aircraft continued accelerating and swing to the right. The Bristol Freighter is well known for its tendency to swing on takeoff. The commander joined the co-pilot on the controls and attempted to assist in correcting the right-hand swing. It became apparent to the pilots that they would be unable to prevent the aircraft running over the edge of the runway and, as there were people standing by the edge and a small control tower building behind them, they applied full up-elevator in an effort to avoid a collision. Because of the low airspeed at which this occurred, the aircraft stalled and the left wing tip hit the ground. This caused the aircraft to turn so that it was then travelling sideways

which resulted in the landing gear collapsing as it touched the runway. The aircraft then slid off the runway onto the grass. There was no fire and the only injuries were sustained by three of the aircraft passengers.