



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CORNELIA, Georgia	Accident Number:	ATL00LA032
Date & Time:	March 5, 2000, 11:45 Local	Registration:	N8865R
Aircraft:	Bellanca 260 B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he did not obtain much altitude and speed for the short flight. He also reported that the landing gear was not needed to slow the airplane down and was not extended on approach. The pilot reported that he forgot to extend the landing gear before landing, and he did not recall hearing the landing gear warning horn after the throttle was retarded. He also stated that after he exited the airplane and was about 50 feet away, the airplane burst into flames. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions or component failures with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to use the checklist, resulting in a wheels-up landing and post-crash fire.

Findings

Occurrence #1: WHEELS UP LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

- Findings
1. (C) GEAR EXTENSION - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (C) CHECKLIST - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FIRE
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

On March 5, 2000, at 1145 eastern standard time, a Bellanca 260 B, N8865R, landed with the wheels up and burst into flames on runway 24 at the Habersham County Airport in Cornelia, Georgia. The personal flight was operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 with no flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The airplane was destroyed. The private pilot was not injured. The flight departed Canton, Georgia, at 1130.

The pilot stated that during the short flight from Canton, he did not obtain much altitude and airspeed. He reported that the landing gear was not needed to slow the airplane down and was not extended on approach.

According to the pilot, he forgot to extend the landing gear before landing, and did not recall hearing the landing gear warning horn after the throttle was retarded. The pilot also stated that after he exited the airplane and was about 50 feet away, the airplane burst into flames. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions or component failures with the airplane.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 18, 1997
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	525 hours (Total, all aircraft), 178 hours (Total, this make and model), 410 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bellanca	Registration:	N8865R
Model/Series:	260 B 260 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	4227
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2700 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	75 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3800 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470F
Registered Owner:	ACE AUTO INSURANCE	Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:	PAUL L. DORN JR.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ATL ,1026 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	77 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	221°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CANTON , GA (47A)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	HABERSHAM COUNTY AJR	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1447 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	24	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4200 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.509304,-83.520759(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Powell, Phillip
Additional Participating Persons:	BOB R HESSLER; ATLANTA , GA
Original Publish Date:	September 30, 2003
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=48744

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