

Boeing 757-236, G-BMRH

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/07 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 757-236, G-BMRH

No & Type of Engines: 2 Rolls-Royce RB211-535C-37 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date & Time (UTC): 5 May 1999 at 1921 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 8 - Passengers - 109

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Pressure hull dented and ruptured

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: Not Supplied
Last 90 days - Not Supplied
Last 28 days - Not Supplied

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was parked and being prepared for flight on Stand C24. The crew and passengers were on board when the commander was informed that the aircraft had been damaged by a vehicle. Upon inspection of the damage near the rear cargo hold door, the commander saw a dent and within that dent, a split in the skin. A baggage loading vehicle was still in place and it was obvious that the damage had been caused by the vehicle's conveyor-belt guardrail striking the aircraft. The commander thought this was odd because all the baggage had been loaded and logically the vehicle should have been moving away from the aircraft. However, it was raining at the time and he assessed the apron area as slippery. The aircraft was withdrawn from service for repairs.

The incident was investigated by the Heathrow police who reported that the vehicle struck the aircraft when the driver attempted to move it to the left to permit the hold door to be closed. The policeman reported that the apron surface was good and free of contaminant such as spilled fuel.