

No: 9/84

Ref: EW/G84/07/25

Aircraft type and registration: Druine Turbulent G-APTZ (single-engined fixed wing light aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1959

Date and time (GMT): 22 July 1984 at 1715 hrs

Location: Wick Airfield, Caithness

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — N/A

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Port undercarriage collapsed, minor damage to port wing.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's total flying experience: 480 hours (of which 310 hours were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report pro-forma completed by pilot.

The aircraft was on a flight from Dallachy Airstrip, Moray, to Wick. After take-off, ground observers noticed that the port undercarriage leg was hanging at an unusual angle but were unable to attract the pilot's attention using visual and radio signals. They then informed RAF Lossiemouth of the aircraft's problem and a Sea King helicopter was despatched to intercept G—APTZ. The helicopter crew managed to convey the nature of the problem to the pilot, who landed at Wick on the starboard undercarriage. At about 15 kt the port undercarriage leg collapsed and the port wing tip contacted the ground, slewing the aircraft through about 150° but causing only minor damage.

The pilot has reported that initial inspection of the fractured port undercarriage leg has not revealed any indications of long-term pre-existing defect in the material, although the starboard leg also showed evidence of cracking in a similar location. The parts will be referred to the Popular Flying Association for more expert opinion and follow-up action if necessary.

The pilot also reported difficulty in receiving radio transmissions due to a recent apparently unsuccessful modification to the radio aerial which has subsequently been rectified.