

Piper PA-25-235, G-BPWL

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2000 Ref: EW/G2000/07/25 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-25-235, G-BPWL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-540-B2B5 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1963

Date & Time (UTC): 30 July 2000 at 1420 hrs

Location: Tibbenham Airfield, Norfolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Four blade wooden propeller touched the runway breaking off the end of each blade

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 65 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,740 hours (of which 2 were on type)
Last 90 days - 25 hours
Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was carrying out glider towing and was about to start his second tow of the day. When given the signal to go he applied power but the aircraft remained where it was and pitched forward onto its nose. He closed the throttle but was unable to prevent the propeller from striking the ground.

The pilot had extensive experience of glider towing operations but had only recently been checked out on this aircraft. He believed that his feet had been clear of the toe brakes but accepted that they must in fact have been still applied. It was his normal practice to wear hiking boots when carrying out towing operations. He reported that it was possible that because the towing rope was at full stretch when he applied the power he thought any resistance was due to this and not the brakes.