

Piper PA-28-180, G-BGVU

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/97 Ref: EW/G97/01/04 Category: 1.3

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| Aircraft Type and Registration: | Piper PA-28-180, G-BGVU |
| No & Type of Engines: | 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1969 |
| Date & Time (UTC): | 14 January 1997 at 1440 hrs |
| Location: | Welshpool Aerodrome, Powys, Wales |
| Type of Flight: | Private (Training) |
| Persons on Board: | Crew - 1 - Passengers - None |
| Injuries: | Crew - None - Passengers - N/A |
| Nature of Damage: | Left wing separated and nose gear collapsed damaging propeller and engine |
| Commander's Licence: | Private Pilot's Licence |
| Commander's Age: | 70 years |
| Commander's Flying Experience: | 282 hours (of which 16 were on type) Last 90 days - Nil Last 28 days - Nil |
| Information Source: | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot |

The pilot was flying solo to Welshpool where he intended to carry out circuit flying practice. He joined overhead the airfield and set up an approach onto Runway 22 using half flap around the base leg and full flap on finals. Although the weather conditions were good the approach was directly into sun and the pilot had difficulty in seeing ahead. Believing he was well clear of all obstacles, the pilot continued the approach but the aircraft collided with a hedge and came to rest on the runway near the threshold. The pilot was unhurt and vacated the upright aircraft in the normal way without assistance.

The pilot gave two reasons why he had particular difficulty in seeing into sun. Firstly, he was not wearing sunglasses; he found these difficult to combine with the spectacles he needed to read his map and write on his log and, secondly, there was a thin film of dust on the windscreen.