

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/95

Ref: EW/G95/08/03

Category: 1.3

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-28R-180 Cherokee Arrow, G-AWBB

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming IO-360-B1E piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1968

**Date & Time (UTC):** 5 August 1995 at 1110 hrs

**Location:** Plymouth City Airport, Devon

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Right main landing gear collapsed; damage to right wing and aileron

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 51 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 298 hours (of which 240 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 14 hours  
Last 28 days - 4 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and consequent AAIB enquiries

The aircraft left Bourn Airfield at 0915 hrs and flew to Plymouth City Airport. The approach was to Runway 13 and the surface wind was 090°/11 kt. The right main landing gear collapsed on touchdown and the aircraft came to rest on the runway at the intersection with Runway 06/24. The four occupants escaped without injury. The airport was closed for about 1½ hours.

Although the pilot did not feel that the landing was particularly heavy, the ATCO reported that the aircraft appeared to drop suddenly, in the flare, from a height of about six feet. To him, the landing appeared heavy and the right main landing gear collapsed almost immediately. The landing gear was examined by an engineer at the repair facility who reported that it had experienced an almost vertical load which had led to a failure at the mounting; the leg itself suffered little damage and the tyre remained inflated.