

Europa, G-OJHL

AAIB Bulletin No:
9/2001

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Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Europa, G-OJHL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 912-UL

Year of Manufacture: 1999

Date & Time (UTC): 9 June 2001 at 0959 hrs

Location: Prestwick Airport, Ayrshire, Scotland

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - One - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilots Licence

Commander's Age: 66 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 228 hours (of which 60 were on type)

Last 90 days - 17 hours

Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being flown on a circuit-training sortie to practise crosswind landings. Runway 31 was in use with a surface wind of 250°/13 gusting to 20 kt in rain showers. As the aircraft slowed from a satisfactory landing the mono-wheel main landing gear retracted and the propeller struck the ground.

The Europa landing gear selector lever is gated in the UP and DOWN positions. To avoid inadvertent retraction of the landing gear whilst on the ground, a safety latch is attached to the

landing gear selector lever. As the lever is moved to the DOWN position the latch moves under its own weight into a guide slot and prevents the landing gear lever from being moved from the DOWN position without the latch being moved out of the slot.

In his report the pilot stated that the probable cause of the accident was his failure to ensure that the landing gear selector and safety latch were properly engaged in the gate before touchdown. A contributory factor could have been pilot distraction caused by the extra concentration required in the difficult crosswind conditions. Testing of the landing gear selector lever subsequent to the incident revealed that the safety mechanism functioned as designed on each selection.