

No: 12/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-23-250 G-BAED

No & Type of engines: 2 Lycoming 10-540-C4B5 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date and time (UTC): 12 October 1987 at 1420 hrs

Location: Biggin Hill Airport, Kent

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 3 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial damage to both propellers and under side of the forward fuselage

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 29 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4000 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB telephone enquiries.

The aircraft was on a local training flight from Biggin Hill Airport to familiarise the pilot in handling the type. The pilot reports that he made a normal approach to runway 21, and on selecting the landing gear down three green lights were obtained and the selector returned to neutral. However, on landing the nose landing gear green light went out at the same time as the landing gear warning horn sounded. The gear selector was then held down but it tripped back to neutral as the nose landing gear collapsed. The aircraft sustained substantial damage as it slid to a halt on the runway; the occupants were uninjured.

Subsequent retraction tests revealed no fault with the nose landing gear locking mechanism and a transient failure of the down lock to fully engage is suspected.