

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G89/01/15

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-32RT-300, G-HERO

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5D

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and Time (UTC): 26 January 1989 at 1630 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport

Type of Flight: Pleasure

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller, engine mountings, nose landing gear and doors.
Engine shock loaded.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Night Rating

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 825 hours (of which 11 were on type)

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

Whilst the aircraft was being taxied onto the runway, the nose landing gear collapsed without warning, causing the propeller to strike the tarmac. The occupants evacuated the aircraft, uninjured.

Examination of the nose landing gear revealed that the downlock hook had failed, allowing the gear to retract. The failure of the hook was by a single overload and was associated with an unauthorised drilled hole in the hook. It appears, from the maintenance records, that the hook may have been inadvertently drilled-through whilst a repair was being done to the nearby nose-gear bay wall, at a time before the aircraft came onto the British register.