

No: 10/89

Ref: EW/G89/07/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-38 Tomahawk, G-BNOA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and Time (UTC): 18 July 1989 at 1245 hrs

Location: Wellesbourne Airfield, Warwick

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear, left wing tip, flap and aileron.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Full Instructor Rating

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 3,085 hours (of which 1,500 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone call to the maintenance organisation.

After a normal approach with the student at the controls, a slight jolt was felt on landing and the left landing gear leg detached. The instructor took control of the aircraft as the left wing tip made contact with the runway. The aircraft came to rest with the left wing on the grass at the edge of the runway.

The maintenance organisation reported that one bolt associated with the left landing gear attachment had fractured in overload and also that the main attachment bolt had "pulled out", stripping its threads. A broken attachment bolt was also found associated with the right landing gear. The maintenance organisation considered that an unreported heavy landing had occurred previously.