

No: 6/90

Ref: EW/G90/03/15

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA22-150 (Tailwheel version), N-3935P

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1956

Date and Time (UTC): 17 March 1990 at 1655 hrs

Location: Blackpool Airport

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Extensive damage to right wing, right main gear, empennage and fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (Australia)

Commander's Age: 31 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 199 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot and his passengers had flown VFR from Redhill to Blackpool where the weather was fine and the wind very light. After a normal left-hand join and visual approach to Runway 28 the pilot flared for landing. In the flare he glanced out of a side window and noticed that he had flared 6 to 8 feet too high. To cushion the touchdown he applied power and, as the aircraft settled onto the runway, he reduced power to idle whereupon the aircraft yawed to the left. This yaw was successfully checked and the aircraft ran straight for a brief period before yawing to the left once again. The pilot applied full right rudder but the aircraft skidded and he was unable to prevent it leaving the runway. At an estimated speed of 20 knots the right main landing gear failed which caused the right wing and right elevator to strike the ground. The aircraft came to rest upright on the grass facing south east; the occupants who had all been wearing lap seat belts were uninjured and they vacated the aircraft through the main door.

The pilot attributed the accident to a lapse in concentration and his failure to maintain full up-elevator control during the landing run thereby losing full tailwheel steering authority. Skidmarks on the runway were typical of a groundloop.