

Piper PA-18-150, G-WLAC

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/99 Ref: EW/G99/03/19 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-18-150, G-WLAC

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-A2B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1970

Date & Time (UTC): 18 March 1999 at 1515 hrs

Location: White Waltham Airfield

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller and possible shock loading of the engine

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instrument and Instructor's Rating

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 3,067 hours (of which 7 were on type)

Last 90 days - 75 hours

Last 28 days - 16 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Prior to flight, the aircraft was parked in close proximity to another aircraft and the pilot sought the assistance of ground crew to ensure clearance from the other aircraft. The aircraft was reluctant to move to the right, so the pilot applied right brake and power to assist the turn. As power was applied, the tail of the aircraft rose and the propeller struck the ground.

On this aircraft, it was possible to release the left and right wheel parking brakes independently and the pilot considered that when he released the parking brake before taxiing, he failed to ensure that the right brake had released.