

**AAIB Bulletin No: 4/94**

**Ref: EW/G94/01/06**

**Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper-PA-38-112 Tomahawk, G-BRMJ

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

**Year of Manufacture:** 1979

**Date & Time (UTC):** 23 January 1994 at 1310 hrs

**Location:** Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield, Warwickshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Collapsed nose landing gear, bent propeller and fire damage to the engine bay

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 36 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 86 hours (of which 56 hours)  
Last 90 days - 0 hours  
Last 28 days - 0 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot, who had not flown since 10 October 1993, hired the aircraft for a private flight. The weather was fine with a surface wind of 270°/10 kt. As the pilot applied full power for his take-off run on Runway 36, the aircraft swung to the left. Despite the application of full right rudder, the aircraft continued to veer to the left and departed the runway where the nose landing gear collapsed as the aircraft entered an area of soft ground. The pilot and his passenger were able to vacate the aircraft without difficulty. A fire which developed in the engine bay was quickly extinguished by the Airfield Fire Crew.