

No: 2/90

Ref: EW/G89/06/38

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA18 Super'Cub L21B, G-BAFT

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

Year of Manufacture: 1957

Date and Time (UTC): 23 June 1989 at 1405 hrs

Location: Duxford Airfield, Bedfordshire

Type of Flight: Glider Towing

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller and right landing gear.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 62 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 904 hours (of which 350 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by chief tug pilot

The aircraft was taxiing out for glider towing operations at walking pace when the right landing wheel detached. The aircraft tipped on to its propeller before coming to rest tail down. Damage was confined to the propeller and to the right hub, brake and axle.

Examination of the broken stub axle, by the operator indicated that a fatigue failure had occurred. This was attributed to the considerable number of sorties which had taken place from very hard ground, due to the long hot summer. It was also established that during the previous week, some 50 to 80 landings previously, the surface of the stub axle had been damaged due to a defect in the brake unit. The stub axle had been fitted to the aircraft since new.