

No: 12/92

Ref: EW/G92/09/31

Category: 1c

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 1 September 1992 at 1550 hrs

Location: Alderney Airport, Channel Islands

Type of Flight: Aerial Work (training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to main landing gear/wing spar attachments

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 34 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 380 hours (of which 92 were on type)
Last 90 days - 118 hours
Last 28 days - 80 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was carrying out circuit training on Runway 26 at Alderney, after a flight from Guernsey Airport. The student pilot completed two satisfactory circuits, but on the third approach landed heavily on the main landing gear. The landing was sufficiently firm for the instructor to terminate the detail, and the aircraft was taxied to the parking area. The weather conditions at the time were good, with a surface wind of 260°/22 kt.

The nature of the landing was reported to an engineer, and subsequent inspection revealed that structural damage had occurred.

The commander assessed that the accident was caused by the aircraft being flared too high, and the airspeed being allowed to decay too rapidly, before he could take control and initiate the appropriate recovery action.