

No: 6/88

Ref: EW/G88/05/01

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-30 Twin Comanche, G-BLOR

No & Type of Engines: 2 Lycoming IO-320-B1A piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1963

Date and Time (UTC): 4 May 1988 at 1210 hrs

Location: Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield, Warwick

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to right-hand main gear oleo casing, flap trailing edge, tip tank and propeller tips

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 3672 hours (of which 272 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being used for circuit training on runway 18 at Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield, where the surface wind was westerly at 10-15 kts. After a series of touch and go landings, the final circuit was flown with a simulated failure of the right-hand engine. The landing was reported as firm with a significant amount of drift as the main wheels touched the runway. It was noticed that the right wing was slightly low and, as it continued to sink, both propellers were feathered. Shortly afterwards the trailing edge of the flap and the right-hand tip tank contacted the runway. The aircraft came to rest close to the runway centreline and was vacated by the crew who were uninjured. There was no fire, despite the fact that the tip tank had ruptured, spilling fuel onto the runway.

The right main landing gear oleo casing was found to have broken, causing the landing gear to collapse. Initial on-sight inspection revealed no pre-existing defect.