

No: 7/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/08

Category: 1b

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-23-250, G-OANT
No & Type of Engines:	2 Lycoming IO-520-L piston engines
Year of Manufacture:	1976
Date and Time (UTC):	1 May 1990 at 0743 hrs
Location:	Blackpool Airport, Lancashire
Type of Flight:	Commercial (positioning)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to both propellers, the left wing tip and the lower nose area
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	46 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	2,800 hours (of which 1,000 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and contact with the operators engineering organisation

Having completed the normal checks, the pilot taxied the aircraft to the runway where he carried out the pre take-off checks, including confirmation that the 3 landing gear 'down-and-locked' green lights were illuminated.

The initial part of the take-off run was commenced with no apparent indication of any problem. However at approximately 55 knots, the left landing gear collapsed, followed by collapse of the nose landing gear. The aircraft skidded to the left and came to rest on a grass area next to the runway.

The pilot recalled that in his haste to vacate the aircraft he struck his leg on the throttle quadrant, where the landing gear lever is also located.

The aircraft was examined on site by the chief engineer of the operating company. He found that the landing gear lever was in to the 'UP' position.

Subsequent examination of the aircraft's landing gear system showed that it functioned correctly.