

Piper PA-34-200-2, G-EXEC, 13 January 1998 at 2020 hrs

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/98 Ref: EW/G98/01/09 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-34-200-2, G-EXEC
No & Type of Engines:	2 Lycoming IO-360-C1E6 piston engines
Year of Manufacture:	1974
Date & Time (UTC):	13 January 1998 at 2020 hrs
Location:	Stapleford Tawney Airfield, Essex
Type of Flight:	Public Transport
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Right main landing gear collapsed, damage to right propeller, wing and flap
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating
Commander's Age:	29 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,488 hours (of which 298 were on type) Last 90 days - 118 hours Last 28 days - 15 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent inquiries by AAIB

The aircraft was engaged on a positioning flight from Maastricht back to its base at Stapleford. As the pilot initiated the final approach for Runway 22L, the tower informed him that the wind was 160°/12 kt. He stated that he experienced "some sort of windshear" during the flare as the main landing gear contacted the ground. The aircraft touched down drifting to the right. The pilot corrected with rudder but realised that the right gear was damaged and collapsing, as the right propeller was contacting the ground. He shut down both engines as the aircraft veered to the right off the tarmac onto grass Runway 22R. There was no fire and the pilot evacuated the aircraft normally.

Inspection showed that the right main landing gear had suffered severe damage to the sidestay assembly which had allowed the leg to fold (see diagram). The steel lower link assembly had broken in the area shown and the 1/2 inch bolt which attached it to the leg had bent through about

35°. One of the lugs on the aluminium upper sidestay had also torn off. It is understood that evidence of distress was also seen on the left landing gear assembly, but no failures had occurred.

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