

Piper PA-17 Vagabond, G-ALIJ

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/98 Ref: EW/G98/05/04 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-17 Vagabond, G-ALIJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65-8 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1949

Date & Time (UTC): 4 May 1998 at 1112 hrs

Location: Brimpton Airfield, Berkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Collapsed main landing gear and broken propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 147 hours (of which 23 were on type)
Last 90 days - 24 hours
Last 28 days - 20 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following a local pleasure flight, the aircraft was established on a long final approach to Runway 25 at 70 mph. Speed was further reduced to 65 mph at the airfield boundary, but shortly after, the pilot became aware that the speed had further reduced to 60 mph. At this point the pilot detected a high rate of descent and applied full power. However, this action failed to prevent the aircraft from striking the ground with sufficient force to collapse the main landing gear which then allowed the propeller to contact the ground. The pilot and his passenger were unhurt and were able to exit the aircraft normally.

The pilot observed that shortly after the accident, the airfield windsock indicated that the wind was aligned with the runway at 5 to 10 kt. However, over the next few minutes, the wind sock indicated

a wind variable between calm and 10 kt directly across the runway. The pilot considered that the Windshear associated with this variable wind was the cause of the accident.