

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/93

Ref: EW/G93/02/01

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Rockwell Commander 114, G-BMJL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date & Time (UTC): 3 February 1993 at 1506 hrs

Location: Blackpool Airport, Lancashire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to underside of fuselage and propeller; engine shock loaded

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 315 hours (none of which were on type)
Last 90 days - 15 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent AAIB enquiries.

The aircraft was on a flight from Caernarfon to Blackpool Airport and had passed overhead Warton airfield at 2,000 feet. The pilot reported that he extended the landing gear and did the prelanding checks as he approached the airport, however, as he was unable initially to establish contact with Blackpool ATC, he carried out an orbit. Although he could not positively recall doing it, he thought that he may have retracted the landing gear at this stage. Having made contact with ATC he carried out an approach to Runway 25 and subsequently landed with the gear retracted. The impact with the runway was relatively soft and all three occupants escaped without injury.

The handling pilot was the owner of the aircraft, however, he did not hold a current pilot's licence and was flying under the supervision of a qualified pilot who was the commander of the aircraft.