

**No: 5/89**

**Ref: EW/G88/12/04**

**Category: 1c**

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Piper PA28-161 Warrior, G-BPBM

**No & Type of Engines:**

1 Lycoming O-320-D3G

**Year of Manufacture:**

1979

**Date and Time (UTC):**

11 December 1988 at 1400 hours

**Location:**

Sandtoft Airfield, Lincs.

**Type of Flight:**

Private

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 2

Passengers - 1

**Injuries:**

Crew - None

Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:**

Landing gear, right wing, propeller and engine

**Commander's Licence:**

Private Pilot's Licence with IMC, Night and Full Instructor's rating

**Commander's Age:**

63 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

7,934 hours (of which 6 hours were on type)

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB telephone inquiries.

The Commander, a Qualified Flying Instructor, was conducting a Dual Check on the handling pilot, the holder of a Private Pilot's Licence. After external and internal checks and a power check had been conducted, the aircraft took off on Runway 23 at Sandtoft Airfield with the wind from 270° at 10 kt. Runway 23 is 799 m long. At about 50 - 100 ft agl during the initial climb the aircraft suffered total engine power loss. The Commander, seated on the right, took control. On lowering the aircraft's nose from the climb attitude the engine surged to full power but lost all power output again about 4 seconds later.

With a road and trees at the upwind end of the runway, the aircraft was turned right and landed about 100 m from the edge of the runway in a ploughed field, the only area available for a forced landing. The surface of the field was soft and, after touching down in a tail-down attitude, the main wheels dug in, followed by the nose wheel. The nose landing gear collapsed, allowing the propeller to strike the ground, and the right main wheel sank in, causing the right wing tip to contact the ground, bending the wing back.