

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-30 G-AXRO

No & Type of engines: 2 Lycoming 10-320-B1H piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date and time (UTC): 9 August 1987 at 1350 hrs

Location: Lydd Airport, Kent

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 2 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: The aircraft sustained substantial damage that was beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence with current Instrument Rating and full Instructor's Rating

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4020 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the commander and subsequent telephone enquiries.

The aircraft was being flown for the type conversion training of a qualified Group B rated private pilot. There were a qualified flying instructor plus the pilot under conversion training and one passenger on board. The instructor reports that he intended that the flight should consist of a series of 'touch-and-go' landings. Three landings were completed normally, however, after the third, when the student had restored full power, he retracted the landing gear instead of the flaps. Although the instructor attempted to knock the student's hand away from the landing gear selector he was too late to retrieve the situation and the aircraft's propellers and underside fuselage contacted the runway. The instructor closed the throttles and managed to maintain directional control until the aircraft came to a stop. All occupants vacated the aircraft without injury.