

# Piper PA-28R-201T, G-BSPN, 8 February 1998 at 1358 hrs

## AAIB Bulletin No: 4/98 Ref: EW/G98/02/06 Category: 1.3

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Piper PA-28R-201T, G-BSPN
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Continental TSIO-360-EB piston engine
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1977
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	8 February 1998 at 1358 hrs
<b>Location:</b>	Teesside International Airport, County Durham
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None - Passengers - None
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to engine oil cooler, possible damage to engine.
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence with Instrument, IMC and Night Ratings
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	41 years
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	514 hours (of which 350 were on type) Last 90 days - 9 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Whilst on a local flight from Sandtoft Airfield, when some 15nm southeast of Teesside Airport, the pilot noticed that the engine low oil pressure warning light had illuminated and that the oil pressure gauge was indicating zero. At the time he was receiving air traffic control vectors for an instrument landing system approach to Runway 23 at Teesside Airport and so advised the approach controller of the problem and requested a priority landing. This was granted and the engine continued to run for the remainder of the flight, allowing the pilot to land without further incident.

An initial examination of the aircraft by the Airport Fire Service revealed that oil had been leaking from the engine oil cooler. It was readily apparent that the cooler had been damaged; three spanners were found lying on the cooler matrix.

The last recorded maintenance activity on the aircraft, which was registered in the Private category, was an Annual Check that had been carried out by an approved maintenance organisation on the 20 December 1997.