

No: 3/89

Ref: EW/G89/02/12

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-32R-300, G-GOMM

No & Type of Engines: One Lycoming IO-540-K1G5D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date and Time (UTC): 30 January 1989 at 1655 hrs

Location: Leicester airfield

Type of Flight: Private (Pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Extensive damage to the underside of the aircraft and the propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 436 hours (of which 260 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

On returning to Leicester to join the circuit for a straight-in approach, the pilot was informed that another aircraft was already in the circuit and was about to land. Upon making visual contact with the airfield, the pilot saw that the other aircraft was likely to conflict with his approach and, when he informed the AFISO that he was on his final approach, was asked to make one right orbit. Nevertheless, he decided to carry out a missed approach and, having repositioned, landed without extending the landing gear.

He had been wearing a diagonal upper torso restraint harness and evacuated the aircraft without further incident. There was no fire.

The pilot states that the cause of his failure to lower the landing gear was that the AFISO asked him to make an orbit, rather than a missed approach, and that the automatic gear deployment system had been removed from the aircraft as a result of a Piper Service Bulletin (No 866).