

No: 6/88

Ref: EW/G88/03/01

Category: 1b

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA23-250, G-SFHR

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Lycoming IO-540-C4B5 piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1980

**Date and Time (UTC):** 4 March 1988 at 1030 hrs

**Location:** Blackpool Airport, Lancashire

**Type of Flight:** Private (business)

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 2                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Minor damage to the right wing tip, aileron and flap, and to the aircraft step. Crushing of the right main landing gear doors

**Commander's Licence:** Commercial Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 44 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 3711 hours (of which 1300 were on type)

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

The landing gear was selected down on final approach to Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man. Although the selector lever returned to the neutral position, the right main landing gear light remained out. A go-around was initiated during which ATC confirmed that the right main landing gear had not extended.

The commander elected to return to Blackpool Airport as it was the aircraft's engineering base. Several attempts were made to extend the landing gear, including a series of touch and go landings, but these were unsuccessful. A landing was made using two stages of flap and with the right propeller feathered. Only minor damage was done to the aircraft, which the crew vacated without injury.

Examination at the aircraft's engineering base found that there was corrosion present in the right main landing gear door jack bearing and the retaining body had snapped, causing the jack to become detached from the steel support bracket. Although the main landing gear was free to move, the geometric lock in the door operating linkages prevented its extension by maintaining the doors in the closed position.