

No: 1/92

Ref: EW/G91/11/07

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-30 Twin Comanche, G-COMB

No & Type of Engines: 2 Lycoming IO-320-B1A piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date & Time (UTC): 19 November 1991 at 1728 hrs

Location: Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Fuselage underside scraped, propellers and (consequently) engines damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night ratings

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 254 hours (of which 130 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On the first circuit of a night continuation training flight, the pilot omitted to select the landing gear down. The touch-down was very smooth and the aircraft slid to a standstill without further incident.

In a Twin Comanche of this generation, the landing gear warning consists of one UP light and one DOWN light and both are dimmed with selection of the navigation lights. The warning horn sounds only at the throttles closed position and is not easily distinguished from the stall warning. The pilot states that he believed that he had selected the gear but, with these factors and the fact that the "glass" on the indicator lights of his aircraft has possibly become less translucent with age, the gear UP light did not act as a successful "attention-getter".