

**No: 3/89**

**Ref: EW/G88/12/08**

**Category: 1c**

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Piper PA-34-200T, D-GDDC

**No & Type of Engines:**

2 Teledyne Continental TSIO-360-E piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:**

1976

**Date and Time (UTC):**

19 December 1988 at 1623 hrs

**Location:**

Southend airport

**Type of Flight:**

Cargo

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:**

Crew - None                  Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:**

Damage to lower fuselage and propellers, engines shock loaded

**Commander's Licence:**

Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:**

52 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

5,200 hours (of which 465 were on type)

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Having been cleared for a night approach to runway 33 the pilot selected 10 degrees of wing flap and landing gear down. During the approach the pilot encountered heavy turbulence which developed into strong downdrafts during the final approach. This required extreme concentration by the pilot to ensure a safe landing. Just before touchdown the pilot carried out a final instrument check and noted that the landing gear down and locked lights were not illuminated. The aircraft landed before the pilot had managed to fully activate the emergency landing gear lowering system. The pilot considered that a go-around was not advisable with the wind and turbulence prevailing without jeopardizing the aircraft. The reported wind was 300 degrees at 20 to 25 knots.

Subsequent landing gear checks carried out by an engineering organisation did not reveal any fault with the system.