

**AAIB Bulletin No: 2/95**

**Ref: EW/G94/12/02**

**Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Yak 18T, RA 44470

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 M-14-P piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1993

**Date & Time (UTC):** 3 December 1994 at 1600 hrs

**Location:** RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Engine cowling distorted; propeller bent; abrasion damage to underside of fuselage and trailing edges of wing flaps

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 47 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 152 hours (of which 40 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 28 hours  
Last 28 days - 5 hours

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

The Russian registered aircraft was being flown by the holder of licences issued in Russia and the UK. The pilot had decided to carry out circuit flying practice with another member of his flying club as a passenger. After the first circuit the pilot carried out a normal touch-and-go landing during which he raised the flaps whilst the aircraft was rolling along the runway. Having taken off again and established a satisfactory climb, the pilot carried out the after take-off checks but omitted to raise the landing gear. On the downwind leg of his second circuit he then operated the gear lever which raised instead of lowered the gear. The damage was incurred during the subsequent wheels up landing but there were no injuries except to the pilot's pride.

In his frank report to the AAIB, the pilot admitted that he became distracted during the approach and forgot to check the gear position indicator after operating the landing gear selector. He also offered the explanation that because the flap and gear levers of the YAK 18T are identical in design but in different positions, he raised the flaps but mentally transposed the lever movement into having raised the landing gear.