

No: 8/89

Ref: EW/G89/04/11

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-28-181, G-BNNP

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-360-A4M piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1985

**Date and Time (UTC):** 13 April 1989 at 1325 hrs

**Location:** Redhill Aerodrome, Surrey

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

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

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

**Nature of Damage:** Slight damage to right flap.

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

**Commander's Age:** 33 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 80 hours (of which 19 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone inquiries to the maintenance organisation.

On the downwind leg following a normal take off from runway 26R, the control tower advised that one of the aircraft's wheels had detached and was on the runway. During a low approach and go around it was confirmed visually that the right wheel, brake and lower landing gear leg were missing.

Following a number of practice approaches, and with the emergency services in position, the aircraft was landed on runway 26. The aircraft came to a halt, and both occupants vacated it quickly without suffering injury. The aircraft suffered minor damage to the right flap lower skin.

Subsequent examination by the maintenance organisation revealed that the lower torque link bolt was missing, allowing the whole of the lower (sliding) section of the landing gear to separate.

The lower torque link bolt is retained by a nut secured by a split pin. It was subject to a visual inspection some 30 flying hours prior to the accident and had not been mechanically disturbed subsequent to a 150hr inspection, carried out over 100 hours prior to the accident. No definitive explanation was found as to how the bolt came to be missing.