

Piper PA-34-200T, G-BRHJ, 17 May 1998 at 1830 hrs

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/98 Ref: EW/G98/05/16 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-34-200T, G-BRHJ

No & Type of Engines: 2 Continental TSIO-360-EB1 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 17 May 1998 at 1830 hrs

Location: Kemble Airfield, Cirencester

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 4

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Aircraft damaged beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 11,915 hours (of which 550 were on type)
Last 90 days - 152 hours
Last 28 days - 74 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had planned to conduct a pleasure flight from Kemble Airfield with four passengers on board. The meteorological conditions were excellent with no significant cloud or weather, visibility greater than 10 km, a temperature of +18_C and a surface wind of 040_/10 kt. The runway in use at Kemble was Runway 09 which has a tarmac surface.

Shortly after take off, at about 100 feet, the baggage door opened; this door is located on the left side of the aircraft nose. The pilot elected to complete a tear-drop turn to land on Runway 27 despite the tailwind; this runway has an available landing distance of 2,039 metres. After climbing to a height of 400 feet and completing the turn he shut down the left engine. At this stage the

aircraft was still approximately 30° off the runway heading and with a high ground speed. The pilot interpreted this as a high approach speed and allowed the air speed to reduce. At a height estimated to be between 50 and 20 feet the stall warning horn sounded. The pilot immediately increased power on the right engine and simultaneously applied full right rudder. The rudder application was excessive and the aircraft touched down heavily with the nose still yawing to the right. The undercarriage collapsed on touchdown and aircraft slid across the runway and came to a halt on the grass after causing substantial damage to the airframe. The pilot and his passengers vacated the aircraft uninjured and unassisted.