

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/93

Ref: EW/G92/12/16

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-23-160 Apache, G-ARJU

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Lycoming O-320-B3B piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1961

**Date & Time (UTC):** 29 December 1992 at 1930 hrs

**Location:** Biggin Hill Airport, Kent

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 3

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

**Nature of Damage:** Right side propeller blades destroyed. Distortion of lower right side fuselage, right gear attachment bracket and right upper wing skin. Engine shock loaded.

**Commander's Licence:** Commercial Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 22 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 1,364 hours (of which 78 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 30 hours  
Last 28 days - 8 hours

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

After landing from an uneventful flight from Le Touquet to Biggin Hill, the aircraft was turned onto the taxiway and brought to a standstill before the pilot carried out the after landing checks. During these checks, he inadvertently selected GEAR retraction in mistake for FLAP retraction. The right main gear leg retracted, causing the right propeller to strike the ground and stop the engine. Damage to the airframe was also incurred.

There was no fire and the occupants vacated the aircraft without further event.