

Piper PA-28-140, G-AYJR

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/29 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-AYJR

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1970

Date & Time (UTC): 22 May 1999 at 1650 hrs

Location: Bembridge Airport, Isle of Wight

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to engine, propeller and nose gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 106 hours (of which 65 were on type)
Last 90 days - 11 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had flown a navigation exercise from RAF Brize Norton to Bembridge. The runway in use at Bembridge was Runway 30, which had a landing distance of 775 metres and a concrete surface. The weather on arrival was reported as: surface wind 250/13 kt, visibility greater than 10 km with no significant weather and cloud overcast at 3,800 feet.

The aircraft was stabilised on the approach in the correct landing configuration and at a speed of 80 mph. The pilot reported that after crossing the threshold the aircraft dropped suddenly and struck the runway surface. The aircraft then bounced and the nose gear collapsed when the aircraft struck the runway for a second time. When the aircraft came to a halt the pilot selected the fuel, electrics and magnetos to OFF, he and his passenger then vacated the aircraft via the normal exit.

The reported crosswind was 11 kt which was within the limits set by the flying club for pilots of his experience. The pilot considered that there may have been some turbulence present over the threshold created by the windflow over hangars situated on the left side of the runway.