

Piper PA-28-180, G-OIBO

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/99 Ref: EW/G98/12/13 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-180, G-OIBO

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date & Time (UTC): 13 December 1998 at 1010 hrs

Location: Wellesbourne Mountford Airport, Warwickshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to left main landing gear attachments

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 188 hours (of which 180 were on type)

Last 90 days - 4 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot carried out an external inspection of the aircraft before starting to taxi for take off. Initially the aircraft was reluctant to move and the pilot checked that the parking brake was fully released. When the aircraft started to move, it pulled to the left and the pilot corrected with right rudder. At this point the problem disappeared and the pilot continued to taxi. Shortly thereafter, ATC instructed the pilot to stop as there was a rope attached to the aircraft's left wing. The pilot stopped the aircraft, removed the rope and inspected the aircraft for damage. There appeared to be no damage but it was apparent that the aircraft had started to taxi with the left tie-down weight still attached. The tie-down weight was found a short distance from the aircraft's parking position and removed from the taxiway. The pilot recommenced taxiing but on hearing a dull 'clunk' decided to abandon his planned flight and returned to the parking area for a further inspection of the aircraft. On examination, the bolts securing the left main landing gear were found to be loose.

The pilot determined that the cause of the incident was his failure to remove the left tie-down weight despite having conducted what he thought was a thorough external check.