

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-32R-301 Saratoga SP, G-ELLA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996 (Serial no: 3246050)	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 January 2018 at 1330 hrs	
Location:	In flight, near the Compton VOR	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the forward baggage bay door	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	68 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	11,600 hours (of which over 200 were on type) Last 90 days - 80 hours Last 28 days - 17 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and additional enquiries made by the AAIB	

Prior to undertaking a training flight with an instructor, the owner completed a pre-flight inspection. As part of this, he took off the aircraft's cover and stored it in the forward baggage bay but, during the flight after practising a stall, the baggage bay door opened unexpectedly. The cover was sucked out of the baggage bay and struck the wing before detaching from the airframe. The baggage bay door remained open in the slipstream, with no control difficulties experienced by the crew, as they returned to White Waltham airfield where the aircraft landed safely.

The instructor believes that the baggage bay door was not properly secured during the pre-flight inspection. Other than to the baggage bay door, no other damage was noted, and the aircraft was returned to service once it had been repaired.