

Sportavia SFS 31, D-KIFF, 28 July 2002

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2002 Ref: EW/G2002/07/33

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Sportavia - SFS 31, D-KIFF	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rectino 4AR 1200 Ser:266 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1970	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 July 2002 at 1545 hrs	
Location:	Boscombe Down	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller tips and underside of fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	71 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,928 hours (of which 135 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 10 hours	
	Last 28 days - 9 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent enquiries by the AAIB	

The aircraft was returning to Boscombe Down after a flight from Germany of over four hours duration. The landing gear comprises a single retractable main wheel, outrigger wheels and a steerable tailwheel. The gear is lowered using a lever on the right side of the cockpit connected directly to the main gear support mechanism, which is then locked in position by moving a separate downlock lever, located to the right of the control column.

Following a gentle tail down landing, as the pilot was about to deploy the airbrake, the main wheel retracted and the aircraft collapsed onto the runway. The aircraft slid on the fuselage for approximately 25 metres sustaining damage to the propeller blade tips before coming to rest. The pilot concluded that he had not completed a proper tactile check to ensure that the downlock lever was fully in position, with the result that the landing gear was not locked down. He considered that a contributory factor was tiredness after the long flight.

