

CORRIGENDUM

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Accident to Piper PA28-180, G-BAWX at Sherburn-in-Elmet on 26 August 1990

The threshold speed of the aircraft was incorrectly reported as 80 knots. The actual speed of the aircraft was 80 mph.

The aircraft was responding to an emergency in the village of Lxysdown. It landed on a large grassed park area where two paramedics, dispatched and discovered from a by-stander the exact location of the patient's house. They set out to land the patient and the commander took off alone to find a landing site closer to the patient's house. He conducted an aerial search and decided to land about 70 metres from the rear of the patient's single-storey chalet house on a grassed area which was approximately 20 metres wide and 40 metres long. On approach to the landing site, at a height the commander estimated to be 30 ft above ground level, he suddenly experienced a resonance in tail rotor control. The helicopter commenced a rapid yaw to port which he could not contain and so he lowered the collective lever to reduce the yaw and initiate an emergency landing. The aircraft rotated to his left through the main cabin door.

Two witnesses on the ground had seen a double bed sheet drawn into the tail rotor during the approach. The light coloured sheet had been hanging on a washing line beside the patient's house which was parallel to and about one foot from its pale coloured walls. The sheet was the only item on the washing line and the commander has stated that he failed to see it during his pre-landing inspection of the site. There were no ground marks indicative of a heavy landing or tail rotor strike but the tail pylon had collapsed downwards and to the left.