

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA18 150 Cub G-OTUG (single engined fixed wing light aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1957

Date and time (GMT): 31 March 1984 at 1045 hrs.

Location: Kings Farm, Orsett, Essex

Type of flight: Private (business) banner towing

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil Ground Crew Member

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A Serious

Nature of damage: Nil

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

Commander's total flying experience: 2762 hours (of which 30 hours were on type)

Information Source: Accident Report Submitted by Pilot and Police investigation

The aircraft had taken off and completed a circuit with the intention of picking up an advertising banner by means of a hook trailing from the aircraft.

The banner was lying on the ground with a ground helper positioned at the tail end in order to prevent it from twisting on lift off. The pilot reports that after flying overhead and picking up the banner, he saw the banner start to move. He also saw the ground helper tumbling over and released the hook from the aircraft, thereby jettisoning the banner. Unfortunately, this was not quite soon enough to prevent the banner and the helper from leaving the ground.

The helper then fell from an unspecified height, sustaining fractured ribs, leg, arm and injuries to his back which necessitated a period of intensive care in hospital. He has no recollection of the accident.