

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199602263**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Cherokee Six**

13 July 1996

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199602263 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 3.5km N Mount Cotton
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 13 July 1996
Time: 1200 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-32-300
Aircraft Registration: VH-PGB **Serial Number:** 32-40457
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Mt Cotton QLD
Departure Time: 1145 EST
Destination: Mt Cotton QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command		227.3	459

Approved for Release: Friday, July 26, 1996

During short final approach to land at the completion of a local scenic flight, the aircraft encountered excessive sink and a sudden increase in crosswind. As a result the aircraft bounced heavily on the runway threshold. The pilot then elected to go around and immediately applied full power.

During the climb out he noticed that the wings appeared to be damaged inboard of the tip tanks. Both tanks were full at the time. A decision was then taken to divert to Archerfield where the runway direction would better suit the prevailing wind. An uneventful landing followed.

Post flight examination of the aircraft confirmed significant damage to both wings.