

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603027**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Navajo**

20 September 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: 199603027 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Roma, Aerodrome
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Friday 20 September 1996
Time: 1557 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-31
Aircraft Registration: VH-JRA **Serial Number:** 31-7401264
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW
Departure Time: 1242 EST
Destination: Roma QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	230.0	2516

Approved for Release: Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Sequence of events

The aircraft entered the circuit on a left downwind leg for runway 18 from the south. The pilot was aware of another aircraft approaching from the north. The pilot said that the downwind checks were delayed because the speed of the aircraft was too high to lower the landing gear. He became somewhat distracted looking for the other aircraft entering the circuit. The pilot felt sure that he had lowered the landing gear. He said that neither he nor his passenger heard the landing gear warning horn before the propellers struck the bitumen runway surface.

A post-flight inspection of the landing gear did not find any fault in its operation.

Analysis

The pilot probably forgot to lower the landing gear when he became distracted.