

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199501949**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Arrow**

15 June 1995

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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: 199501949 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 37km E Derby, Aerodrome
State: WA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Thursday 15 June 1995
Time: 0740 hours **Time Zone** WST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-28R-180
Aircraft Registration: VH-ASU **Serial Number:** 28R-30588
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Business
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Kununurra WA
Departure Time: 0531 WST
Destination: Meda Station WA

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	320.0	920

Approved for Release: Thursday, August 17, 1995

The pilot was landing at the strip for the first time. He had contacted the owners agent, prior to departure, to obtain details of the strip. On arrival over Meda the pilot carried out an inspection of the strip which indicated that, although there were areas of long grass, it was suitable for a landing. During the inspection the pilot observed a set of drums marking one corner at the approach end and another, single drum, marking the other corner. No other drums were visible however, the grass covered area beyond the drums appeared to be free of obstacles.

There was a strong south-easterly wind blowing when the pilot made an approach and landing towards the east and into the rising sun. During the roll-out, after landing, the pilot observed a drum directly ahead of the aircraft which, until that point, had been concealed by the grass. The pilot attempted to take avoiding action but the left main wheel collided with the drum. The drum bounced up and struck the wing causing substantial damage to the skin.

The early morning sun had given the whole grassed area a golden reflective appearance making it difficult to see any objects located within the landing area.