

Rockwell Commander 114, G-BDYD

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/99 **Ref:** EW/G99/04/28 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Rockwell Commander 114, G-BDYD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-540-T4A5D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date & Time (UTC): 28 April 1999 at 1320 hrs

Location: Runway 23, Hawarden Airport, Wales

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to propeller with minor damage to underside of nose, nose landing gear doors and torque link

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 975 hours (of which 450 were on type)

Last 90 days - 8 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After take off the pilot selected to the landing gear up but it failed to retract. When the gear was selected down the main landing gear indicated down and locked but the nose landing gear 'in transit' light remained illuminated. The pilot recycled the gear with no effect and flew past the tower for a visual inspection. Although ATC confirmed that the wheels were down the pilot decided to use the landing gear 'free-fall' system in a final attempt to obtain '3 greens'. This, and the application of 'g', had no effect. Having exhausted all his options the pilot decided to land. The touchdown was normal, however as the aircraft slowed during its landing run the nose landing gear collapsed. The pilot vacated the aircraft without injury.

Engineering investigation, by the repair agency, showed that the hydraulic ram associated with the nose landing gear system, although damaged in the landing, functioned correctly when tested. To date no other faults with the system have been found.