

Piper PA-32-300, G-OCPF

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/06/33	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-32-300, G-OCPF	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1976	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 June 2001 at 1107 hrs	
Location:	Guernsey Airport, Channel Islands	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller, nose landing gear collapsed	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	46 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	296 hours (of which 36 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 7 hours	
	Last 28 days - 4 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was equipped with rudder pedal actuated nosewheel steering and toe brakes were fitted to both left and right sets of rudder pedals. A passenger was occupying the right hand front seat alongside the pilot.

The aircraft was landing on Runway 27 at Guernsey after a flight from Exeter. After a normal touchdown, while the speed was decaying through 50 to 40 kts, the aircraft suddenly veered sharply to the left and departed the paved surface, coming to rest on the grass with the nose landing gear collapsed.

Subsequent engineering inspection found no aircraft defect which could have accounted for the runway excursion.

The pilot commented that the passenger was engaged in video photography at the time of the landing. The possibility of an inadvertent rudder pedal/toe brake input could not be discounted. The pilot indicated that he had not specifically briefed the passenger (who was not a regular flyer in light aircraft) about the need to remain clear of the flight controls during critical phases of flight.