No: 1/83 Ref: EW/G82/12/01

Aircraft: Piper PA23 - E Aztec G-BBBD

Year of Manufacture: 1973

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Date and time (GMT): 8 December 1982 at 16.50 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport

Type of flight: Air Taxi

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - 1 suffered

slightly strained neck

Nature of damage: Substantial. Inboard wings wrinkled, both

propellers bent, nose damaged and noseleg

overstressed

Commander's Licence: Airline transport pilot's licence,

Instructor Rating

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's total 8153 hours (of which 28 were on type)

flying experience:

The aircraft landed heavily and was then observed to bounce several times before the nose undercarriage folded back, causing the aircraft to slide to rest on its nose, damaging the latter and bending both propeller blades. The pilot selected switches-off and the occupants evacuated through the main door.

Later inspection showed the nose undercarriage drag strut to have failed due to severe bending overstressing of both forward link-arms and failure of the starboard arm.

These effects were consistent with excessive aft/starboard loading on the noseleg during the landing. Distortion of the wing inboard section skins also indicated that excessive vertical forces on the main gear had been experienced.