

Piper PA-23-250 Aztec, G-RVRC

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/98 **Ref:** EW/G98/05/36 **Category:** 1.2

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-23-250 Aztec, G-RVRC

No & Type of Engines: 2 Lycoming IO-540 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date & Time (UTC): 26 May 1998 at 0445 hrs

Location: Luton Airport, Bedfordshire

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers -None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Nosewheel fork

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,687 hours (of which 260 were on type)
Last 90 days - 184 hours
Last 28 days - 88 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After a normal landing and deceleration the aircraft was turned on the runway to backtrack and vacate. At walking pace as the aircraft straightened from the 180_ turn the pilot was aware of some difficulty with the steering. The aircraft began to shudder and suddenly pitched down and stopped. The pilot shutdown the engines, notified the tower and vacated the aircraft normally. As he got out of the aircraft he saw the nosewheel lying loose behind the extended noseleg. No other loose debris or components were noted on the runway surface before it was swept and, although it appeared that the noseleg fork had fractured, it was reported that the subsequent abrasion had destroyed the fracture area.