

No: 9/90 Category: 1c Ref: EW/G90/07/31

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Rockwell Commander 114, G-BKAY

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming IO-540-T485D piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1978

**Date and Time (UTC):** 11 July 1990 at 1410 hrs

**Location:** Fairoaks Airport, Chobham, Surrey

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 2 Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Engine shock loaded; damage to nose landing gear leg and doors.

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC rating

**Commander's Age:** 48 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 266 hours (of which 60 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The landing gear was selected down on base leg to runway 24. The selection was confirmed by three green lights on the gear indicator. During the landing roll, the gear switch was inadvertently moved to the UP selection. The mistake was quickly rectified but the nose gear had started to retract. It subsequently collapsed, and the aircraft came to rest on the lefthand side of the runway. Both occupants escaped without injury.

The pilot was unable to recall precisely what occurred during the landing roll, however, he reported that, to avoid foreign object damage, the flap was raised as soon as possible after landing. It was considered possible that the gear selector had been moved instead the flap selector. The squat switch system, which provides protection against inadvertent landing gear retraction on the ground, will be examined in detail by the maintenance organisation, at a later date.