

No: 4/83

Ref: EW/C 820

Aircraft: Cessna 404 Titan G-OEMA (light twin-engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date and time (GMT): 3 April 1983 at 2200 hrs

Location: 55 nm east of Clacton VOR

Type of flight: Commercial passenger

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 7

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - Nil

Nature of damage: Right-hand aileron outboard hinge bracket and bolt broken

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's total flying experience: 3,230 hours (of which 900 hours are on type)

The aircraft was on a night charter flight from Munich to East Midlands Airport. Whilst in the cruise at FL 80, the aircraft rolled violently to the right. The pilot attempted to level the aircraft by overpowering the autopilot, but found that the control wheel was deflected to the right and was jammed. He therefore disconnected the autopilot, but this had no effect. He subsequently managed to level the aircraft by means of opposite rudder and by increasing power on the right engine. After isolating the autopilot circuits, there was no improvement in lateral control and so the exterior of the aircraft was examined with the aid of a torch. This revealed that the right aileron had separated at its outboard hinge, and the outboard section of the aileron had jammed at a positive angle, so that it protruded above the surface of the wing. The pilot then initiated a distress call and message to London Airways, who, on request, vectored the aircraft towards Manston. After a surveillance radar approach to Manston's runway 29, the aircraft made a safe landing. Throughout the approach, lateral control had been maintained by the use of differential power, sufficient to maintain adequate rudder and yaw authority in either direction.

The Chief Inspector of Accidents has ordered an Inspector's Investigation into this accident.