

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198200015**

**Piper PA30 Commanche**

**16 March 1982**

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**NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at [www.atsb.gov.au](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198200015  
**Location:** Augathella QLD  
**Date:** 16 March 1982  
**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Time:** 1450

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA30 Commanche  
**Registration:** VH-DGW  
**Serial Number:**  
**Operation Type:** Charter  
**Damage Level:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Augathella QLD  
**Departure Time:** 1450  
**Destination:** Charleville QLD

**Approved for Release:** 21st March, 1984

**Circumstances:**

At the end of an uneventful flight from Morven the sole passenger disembarked and watched while the pilot restarted the engine and commenced to taxi. The passenger next observed the aircraft when it was about 30 ft above the ground after take-off. At this time the aircraft was steeply banked to the left and shortly after it passed from sight the engine noise ceased and the sound of trees breaking was heard. The wreckage of the aircraft was subsequently located at the threshold of another of the aerodrome strips. It was determined that the aircraft had collided with trees while it was in a left wing down attitude before rolling inverted and striking the ground. The precise cause of the accident could not be determined, however the possibility that the right wing flap was jammed in the fully down position after the previous landing could not be discounted.