

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502552**

Piper PA32 RT300

6 September 1985

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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.

Occurrence Number: 198502552
Location: Mudgee NSW
Date: 6 September 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1205

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	5
Total	0	0	0	6

Aircraft Details: Piper PA32 RT300
Registration: VH-CXX
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Travel)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Mudgee NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Moorabbin VIC

Approved for Release: April 11th 1986

Circumstances:

Shortly after take-off a loud banging noise was heard from the inboard area of the right wing. The pilot elected to fly a low level circuit and land to investigate the noise. On short final approach heavy sink was encountered, and despite the application of power the aircraft touched down about 100 metres short of the runway. It ran through the airport boundary fence and came to rest near the flight strip with the gear collapsed. Investigation revealed that a section of the door seal had become unstuck and had trailed in the slipstream, beating against the door. The pilot had believed that the aircraft had suffered a serious malfunction and was anxious to land as soon as possible. Her husband, who occupied the right front seat, was a more experienced pilot. However, he did not offer to take control of the aircraft. It was probable that the airspeed during the approach was less than the optimum. When sink was encountered, the power and control inputs which were applied were insufficient to prevent the aircraft striking the ground in a semi-stalled condition.