

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199400214**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Seneca**

27 January 1994

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199400214 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Minlaton
State: SA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Thursday 27 January 1994
Time: 1741 hours **Time Zone** CSuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-34-200
Aircraft Registration: VH-LCK **Serial Number:** 34-7350236
Type of Operation: Charter Cargo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Minlaton SA
Departure Time: 1741 CSuT
Destination: Adelaide SA

Crew Details:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	245.0	7000

Approved for Release: Sunday, June 19, 1994

The pilot taxied the aircraft for departure, back tracking to the north-west end of the runway. While turning right to line up for takeoff, the left main landing gear collapsed, allowing the left propeller to strike the ground, stopping the engine.

The eye bolt attaching the landing gear side brace strut to the spar fitting was found to have suffered a corrosion fatigue failure allowing the gear to collapse inwards, ie. in the direction of retraction. As this did not effect the downlock latching mechanism or micro switch at the strut elbow joint, all three green gear down lights in the cockpit remained on.

The operator had previously experienced this problems with simliar type aircraft, and as the bolt is difficult to see during inspections he instigated a program to replace it with a modified type. This aircraft had only recently been acquired and the bolts would have been replaced at the first service by the operator.