

SIAI Marchetti S205 18/R G-AYXS

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/2003

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Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:

SIAI Marchetti S205 18/R, G-AYXS

No & Type of Engines:

1 Lycoming O-360-A1A
piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

1968

Date & Time (UTC):

4 October 2002 at 1241 hrs

Location:

Denham Aerodrome,
Middlesex

Type of Flight:

Private

Persons on Board:

Crew - 2

Passengers - None

Injuries:

Crew - None

Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage:

Damage to engine cowl, nose
landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence:

Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

54 years

Commander's Flying Experience:

440 hours (of which 110
were on type)

Last 90 days - 36 hours

Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form
submitted by the pilot and
telephone enquiries by the
AAIB

The aircraft was landing on Runway 24 at Denham after a flight from Barton, Manchester. The commander reported that, before the flight, he carried out a standard pre-flight inspection with no anomalies found. On the approach to Denham, with the passenger performing the function of a co-pilot, the commander stated that the pre-landing checks were carried out in a challenge and response manner, including a check of the landing gear single green indicator light and a mechanical indicator on the floor which is linked to the nose landing gear. Again, no anomalies were found and the subsequent touchdown was described as smooth.

However, after a few seconds of rollout the nose landing gear suddenly collapsed, and the aircraft came to rest on its mainwheels and nose just off the right edge of the runway. The co-pilot had already switched off the landing light and fuel boost pump. The emergency services arrived promptly and, with the assistance of a number of helpers, the aircraft was tilted upwards about the mainwheels and a mechanic reached underneath to check the folded nose gear. He was able to pull the leg into the locked-down position without difficulty whence the aircraft was pushed onto a stand.

The maintenance company which examined the aircraft after the accident reported that, apart from the damage caused by the nose gear collapse, no defects were found with the landing gear system which could account for the problem.