

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199403550**

**Cessna Aircraft Company  
Conquest  
Piper Aircraft Corporation, Santa  
Maria Division  
Aerostar**

**28 November 1994**

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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).**

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:** 199403550                      **Occurrence Type:** Incident  
**Location:** 18.5km W Sydney  
**State:** NSW    **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Monday 28 November 1994  
**Time:** 2203 hours                                      **Time Zone**                      ESuT  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Cessna Aircraft Company  
**Aircraft Model:** 441  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-TFB                      **Serial Number:** 4410260  
**Type of Operation:** Charter                      Cargo  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Canberra ACT  
**Departure Time:** 2125 ESuT  
**Destination:** Sydney NSW

**Crew Details:**

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on</u>	
		<u>Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	ATPL 1st Class	255.0	2665

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Piper Aircraft Corporation, Santa Maria Division  
**Aircraft Model:** 600A  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-WMY                      **Serial Number:** 60-0527-171  
**Type of Operation:** Charter                      Passenger  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Tamworth NSW  
**Departure Time:** 0915 ESuT  
**Destination:** Bankstown NSW

**Crew Details:**

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on</u>	
		<u>Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	200.0	7200

**Approved for Release:** Thursday, February 15, 1996

VH-TFB was inbound to Sydney from Canberra and had been instructed to descend to 5,000ft for an approach to runway 16R. At the same time, VH-WMY was inbound to Bankstown from the north, maintaining 3,000ft. VH-TFB was subsequently observed by radar to descend to 3,200ft, about 1 NM from VH-WMY. The pilot of VH-TFB was given traffic on the other aircraft and instructed to immediately turn left and climb to 5,000ft. This instruction was complied with promptly. The pilot of VH-WMY was visual between cloud layers and became aware of VH-TFB as it turned and climbed.

The pilot of VH-TFB later reported having been distracted whilst flying through a line of thunderstorms, associated with heavy rain and turbulence, and had inadvertently descended below his assigned altitude.

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