

No: 9/90

Ref: EW/G90/07/08

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Pitts S-1S, G-BOXH

**No & Type of Engines:**

1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:**

1974

**Date and Time (UTC):**

18 July 1990 at 1411 hrs

**Location:**

Sywell Airfield, Northampton

**Type of Flight:**

Private

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:**

Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:**

Damage to landing gear, nose area and engine

**Commander's Licence:**

Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night ratings

**Commander's Age:**

31 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

151 hours (of which 40 were on type)

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Runway 21 at Sywell Airfield was 909 metres long with a dry grassed surface. The undershoot area, beyond 20 feet from the runway start, was covered by a corn crop which stood about 3 feet high. The weather was fine and the surface wind was light and variable.

The pilot completed two successful touch-and-go landings and was on final approach for a third. He flew at 75 kt IAS with a left sideslip but, during the latter stages, allowed the aircraft to become too low. An attempt to correct this was unsuccessful and so he applied full power in order to go around. However, the landing gear entered the corn which caused the aircraft to decelerate rapidly and adopt a nose-down attitude. Touchdown was in this attitude about 20 feet short of the runway. The landing gear failed, the engine stopped and the aircraft slid along the runway on its nose. It quickly came to rest to the left of the centreline and the pilot, who was wearing full upper torso restraint, escaped without injury.