

No: 5/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Pitts S-1 Special G-AZPH

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming 10-360-B4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1970

Date and time (UTC): 11 March 1987 at 1400 hrs

Location: Abbots Hill Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Propeller damaged beyond repair; major damage to both undercarriage legs

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 36 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 798 hours (of which 74 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The aircraft was on a local flight when it suffered a partial engine failure. The engine was throttled to reduce the considerable vibration, and a heading was taken up to return to the farm where the aircraft was based. A moderate amount of sideslip was used to achieve the desired final approach path, but, when the throttle was opened, the engine did not develop sufficient power to arrest the higher than normal rate of descent. The landing was heavy, all three wheels striking the ground simultaneously. The port undercarriage collapsed and the aircraft slewed to the left. It came to rest on the left-hand side of the field and the pilot vacated the aircraft without injury.