

Boeing A75N1 (PT-17) Stearman, N38940

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/05/22	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Boeing A75N1 (PT-17) Stearman, N38940	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental W-670 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1941	
Date & Time (UTC):	19 May 2001 at 1245 hrs	
Location:	Adjacent to Priory Farm Airstrip, Tibenham, Norfolk	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Main landing gear, propeller and underside of fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	65 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,069 hours (of which 26 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - Not reported	
	Last 28 days - Not reported	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot reported that he had descended with reduced power from 3,500 feet. A normal left hand downwind leg was flown for the grass Runway 01 at Priory Farm, with a light westerly surface wind.

During the final turn, the pilot perceived that the aircraft was becoming low and he attempted to apply power to correct the descent path. However, the engine did not produce any power increase. The only achievable landing area was some 45° to the left of the approach. This area was traversed by power lines. The aircraft's height and speed were insufficient to fly over the power lines, so the aircraft was flown below them. This resulted in a heavy touchdown in a soft field, with the aircraft in a tail-down attitude. The main landing gears collapsed but the aircraft remained upright on its belly.

The pilot indicated that he subsequently heard reports of carburettor icing conditions being experienced by other pilots in that area. The pilot indicated that he had the carburettor heat applied at the time of the accident.