



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ORLEANS, Nebraska	Accident Number:	MKC87LA179
Date & Time:	September 26, 1987, 13:00 Local	Registration:	N4365
Aircraft:	JENKINS PITTS S-1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS CRUISING AT 2,000 FT (AGL) WHEN THE ENGINE LOST POWER. HE TURNED TOWARD THE NEAREST SUITABLE EMERGENCY AIRFIELD BUT THE AIRCRAFT'S RATE OF DESCENT PRECLUDED THIS OPTION. THE PILOT SELECTED A ROAD AS ALTERNATE, BUT VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD FORCED HIM TO ATTEMPT AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN A CULTIVATED ALFALFA FIELD. THE AIRCRAFT NOSED OVER AFTER IMPACT WITH THE TERRAIN. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FUEL SYSTEM AND POWERPLANT BY TWO FAA INSPECTORS REVEALED THAT A CONNECTING BOLT WAS MISSING FROM THE CARBURETOR THROTTLE CONTROL CABLE. OPERATION OF THE CARBURETOR THROTTLE LEVER AND BUTTERFLY WERE BENCH-CHECKED SATISFACTORILY. THE MISSING BOLT COULD NOT BE FOUND.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) THROTTLE/POWER LEVER, LINKAGE - MISSING

2. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,CARBURETOR - DISCONNECTED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	34, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 23, 1987
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2280 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 2260 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 125 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	JENKINS	Registration:	N4365
Model/Series:	PITTS S-1 PITTS S-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	PA-PA
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 1, 1987 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	80 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1A
Registered Owner:	WELLS, DAVID H.	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EAR ,2130 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	44 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	205°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft AGL	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	HOLDREGE , NE (HDE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Rough;Vegetation;Wet
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.129833,-99.449447(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vargas, Ramon
Additional Participating Persons:	MARVIN R TREASE; LINCOLN , NE CARL A REIKOW; LINCOLN , NE
Original Publish Date:	June 16, 1989
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=34445

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