

No: 11/90

Ref: EW/G90/08/03

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Jodel D140B, G-ATSU

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-360-A2A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1963

**Date and Time (UTC):** 2 August 1990 at 0900 hrs

**Location:** London Gatwick Airport

**Type of flight:** Commercial

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 3

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Undercarriage collapsed and propeller damaged

**Commander's Licence:** Commercial Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 31 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 1132 hours (of which 48 were on type)

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

An aircraft had been contracted to a television camera team to record a wing-walking attempt being conducted on a Stearman aircraft during a flight from Gatwick to Le Bourget. The camera crew, who were very experienced in aerial photography, expressed some surprise at being supplied with a Jodel, as the team consisted of three males with 93 kg of equipment. Furthermore, the Jodel, which had been fully refuelled at Biggin Hill, had consumed only 40 minute fuel on the trip to Gatwick. Nevertheless, they were assured that the aircraft was adequate for the task and would be within the requirements of weight and balance, and so they boarded it.

During take-off, full engine power was applied but, as the airspeed would not rise above 40 kt and the tail of the aircraft did not lift in the normal manner, the pilot decided to raise the tail in an attempt to increase the airspeed. The aircraft immediately began to swing and became directionally uncontrollable. The left undercarriage leg collapsed and then, as the aircraft slewed round, the right leg also collapsed allowing the propeller to strike the runway. There was no fire and the occupants vacated the aircraft without further event.