No: 2/86 Ref: EW/G86/01/02

Aircraft type

and registration: Grumman AA5-A G-WULL (light single engined fixed wing

aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and time (GMT): 4 January 1986 at 1400 hrs

Location: Elstree aerodrome, Hertfordshire

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew -1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew — 1 (minor) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft damaged beyond economical repair

Commander's Licence: Student pilot

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Total

Flying Experience: 18 hours (all of which were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form completed by the pilot and a flying

instructor.

The pilot was carrying out his first solo flight. Prior to this he had completed a dual instruction flight with a qualified flying instructor, after which he had been briefed to carry out one circuit and landing on runway 26. The pilot reports that a landing could not be made from the first circuit, as another aircraft was backtracking the runway, and so he flew a second circuit and landed. The touchdown was made further along the runway than normal, and, as he was of the opinion that the landing was bumpy, the pilot initiated a further go-around. He reports that he re-applied full power but that the aircraft was slow to accelerate because, as he subsequently discovered, he had forgotten to raise the flaps. Being aware of the position of electrical pylons beyond the aerodrome boundary, he raised the nose of the aircraft to an abnormally high attitude. The aircraft climbed to a height of between 60 and 70 feet above the runway, when the left wing dropped suddenly, and the aircraft crashed into some trees adjacent to the end of the runway. There was no fire, but the cockpit canopy had jammed shut, and the pilot managed to release himself via the side window. The upper torso restraint harness, which had been fastened, held correctly during the impact.

The weather at the time was dry, with no significant cloud below 2500 feet. The surface wind was 220/05 kt.