

No: 8/90

Ref: EW/G90/04/16

Category: 1c

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| Aircraft Type and Registration: | Grumman AA-5A, LX-AVC |
| No & Type of Engines: | 1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1978 |
| Date and Time (UTC): | 29 April 1990 at 1558 hrs |
| Location: | Newcastle-upon-Tyne Airport |
| Type of Flight: | Private |
| Persons on Board: | Crew - 2 Passengers - 2 |
| Injuries: | Crew - None Passengers - None |
| Nature of Damage: | Damage to nose landing gear and propeller. |
| Commander's Licence: | Private Pilot's Licence (Luxembourg) |
| Commander's Age: | 43 years |
| Commander's Total Flying Experience: | 116 hours (of which 23 were on type) |
| Information Source: | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot |

The surface wind was reported as 280°/15 kt. The aircraft touched down normally on runway 25 but, the pilot reported, a sudden gust of wind caused it to balloon. The subsequent touchdown was nosewheel first, followed by the main wheels. The nose pitched up sharply and then dropped. The nose landing gear strut bent when it struck the runway and propeller tips hit the ground. The aircraft came to rest, after about 5 metres, to the left of the centreline.

The occupants were uninjured but were unable to vacate the aircraft because they could not release the canopy. The emergency services were promptly on the scene but they were also unable to release it using the outside handle. The canopy was then forced open with a crowbar. The canopy release mechanism appeared to be faulty when checked by a locally based engineer, however, an in depth examination was not possible as the owner elected to have the aircraft shipped to Luxembourg for repair.