

No: 10/91

Ref: EW/G91/07/36

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Grumman AA-5, G-MALC	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1974	
Date & Time (UTC):	31 July 1991 at 1510 hrs	
Location:	Sandown Airfield, Isle of Wight	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - Minor	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Substantial damage to nose landing gear, propeller and engine cowling	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	35 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	70 hours (of which 15 were on type)	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot was carrying out an approach to runway 23. The weather was fine with the surface wind, passed by the tower, as 180°/8 kts. The approach and flare were normal, however, a small amount of power was maintained to counter the greater than normal sink rate anticipated due to the extra weight of the passengers. Only one side of the runway was available for landing, the other side being unusable because of long grass up to 1½ feet high. Also, because of discolourations in the grass and an area of bare earth, there appeared to the pilot to be "a ridge and pot hole" half way along the landing area. Just prior to touchdown the aircraft was manoeuvred to avoid these perceived hazards. Whilst still some 4 to 5 feet above the ground the aircraft sank rapidly and landed firmly on its main wheels. The aircraft then bounced and yawed to the left through approximately 45°. The yaw and induced roll were countered by use of rudder and then aileron. Now heading off the runway, fearing a collision with some parked aircraft and unsure of the integrity of the airframe, the pilot decided to land ahead in the area of long grass. During the retardation the nose landing gear sheared off with the aircraft sustaining damage to the propeller and engine cowling. The passengers, who were all wearing lap and diagonal upper torso restraints, vacated the aircraft without injury. The pilot, similarly restrained, suffered a minor injury to his left knee.