

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G88/08/21

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Grumman AA-5A, G-IDEA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and Time (UTC): 5 August 1988 at 1030 hrs

Location: Biggin Hill

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers -None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers -N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial airframe, engine and propeller damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 98 hours (of which 17 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a circuit training flight at Biggin Hill Airport. The pilot, whose Private Pilot's Licence had lapsed, was undergoing training towards its renewal. Runway 21 with right hand circuits was in use.

The pilot reports that he carried out two touch and go landings which were normal, followed by a third approach and go around. He intended making a further touch and go landing, and flew the final approach at about 60 knots until crossing the threshold where the aircraft was observed, from ATC to flare rather high and the left wing to drop. The aircraft landed firmly on the main wheels and bounced. The pilot applied full power but was unable to regain lateral control, and the aircraft continued to turn left until it crashed into trees to the east of the eastern taxiway.

The rescue services, who had been alerted by ATC before the aircraft crashed, were at the scene within a minute. The pilot, who had been wearing diagonal upper torso restraint harness, escaped from the aircraft without injury.