

No: 1/90

Ref: EW/G89/09/14

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Grumman American AA5 Traveller, G-BCEE

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

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and Time (UTC): 24 September 1989 at 1047 hrs

Location: Middle Wallop Airfield, nr Andover, Hants

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller, nose landing gear and nose cowling

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 57 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 714 hours (of which 98 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a flight from Bournemouth (Hurn) to Middle Wallop. It was cleared to land on grass Runway 23 in light and variable wind conditions and an approach was made at 80 mph. Touching down at approximately 70 mph, the aircraft caught a runway bump and became airborne again for a few feet. The pilot settled the aircraft for a second touchdown which he states was achieved quite safely on the main wheels. However, as the nose was lowered, the nose landing gear leg collapsed allowing the propeller and engine cowling to hit the ground. The aircraft ran for some distance in a straight line before coming to rest and the pilot and passengers disembarked without injury.

Subsequent examination showed that the nose wheel assembly, which is free castoring, had detached from the landing gear leg. Inspection of the fracture suggested that very high vertical and torsional loads had been applied to cause failure. No evidence of pre-existing mechanical or material defects was found.

The nose landing gear assembly had been renewed some months earlier following damage in a landing accident.