

# Grumman AA-1B, G-BBFC, 9 June 1996

**AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/11 Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Grumman AA-1B, G-BBFC

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-235-C2C piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1973

**Date & Time (UTC):** 9 June 1996 at 1400 hrs

**Location:** Perranporth Airfield, Cornwall

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - Minor Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to nose landing gear, propeller, fin, rudder and canopy

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 40 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 80 hours (of which 10 were on type)

Last 90 days - 10 hours

Last 28 days - 5 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot and passenger were on an extended navigational trip from the aircraft's base at Enstone with a planned destination of Land's End, Cornwall. In the vicinity of Redruth the weather deteriorated, the pilot turned to the north west with a view to making a precautionary landing. Sighting an airfield, which he took to be St Mawgan, he tried unsuccessfully to establish RT contact with ATC and orbited the airfield several times to establish the wind direction. After another unsuccessful radio call, he landed on Runway 23 of what turned out to be Perranporth, which is some nine miles south west of St Mawgan. The runway at St Mawgan is oriented 13/31.

During the landing the pilot became aware of a wind shift and so he applied full power and raised the flaps. The aircraft adopted a steep nose up attitude, drifted to the right and bounced several times before coming to rest inverted. The passenger escaped from the aircraft through a hole in the right side of the canopy and the pilot, having switched OFF the electrics and magnetos, followed him.

The pilot attributes his loss of control to the sudden change in wind direction which was possibly a feature of the airfield location close to the cliffs of the north Cornish coast.