

Aircraft type and registration: Grumman American AA-5A G-OING (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (GMT): 11 September 1985 at 1055 hrs

Location: Denham Golf Course, Bucks

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 2 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — 2 Minor Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Serious damage to airframe and engine

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 23 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 695 hours (of which 360 were on type)

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

The aircraft, with one student and an instructor on board, was flying a circuit training detail when, on the fourth touch and go, there was a sudden total loss of engine power just after take off. The instructor assumed control and only had time to transmit an abbreviated MAYDAY call, check that the throttle was open and carry out a forced landing on the only available open space, a golf course adjacent to the airfield. The aircraft came to rest some 40 ft from the initial point of impact, having suffered damage to the port wing, undercarriage, fuselage and engine. The left wing fuel tank was ruptured but there was no fire.

Both occupants escaped with relatively minor injuries as they had been restrained by their respective lap and upper torso safety belts.

Subsequent examination of the wreckage by a local maintenance organisation failed to reveal any technical reason for the engine failure. The aircraft had been refuelled prior to the accident flight with AVGAS 80/87. No evidence of water contamination was found within the fuel system.

The weather at the time of the accident was given as wind 210°/0—5 kt, temperature 22°C, with no low cloud.