

**No: 1/85**

**Ref: EW/G84/11/13**

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

**Year of Manufacture:** 1979

**Date and time (GMT):** 25 November 1984 at 1515 hrs

**Location:** Southampton Airport

**Type of flight:** Training

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — Nil

**Injuries:** Crew — 1 (minor)      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Nose gear leg severed from aircraft. Damage to propeller and lower engine cowling

**Commander's Licence:** Student Pilot

**Commander's Age:** Not known

**Commander's total flying experience:** 10 hours (all on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report form completed by the Pilot.

The aircraft was being flown by a student pilot on a solo circuit training exercise using runway 21 at Southampton Airport, with the wind from 240° at 06 kt. Having completed four circuits and landings the pilot prepared for the final landing of the detail in which he intended to use full flap. When the aircraft was approximately 20 feet above the runway it was caught by a sudden gust and ballooned about 15 feet into the air. It then dropped rapidly and bounced on the runway. During recovery from a second and much harder bounce the pilot steered the aircraft towards the grass alongside the runway, where it struck the ground in a nose-down attitude. The nose gear leg broke off and the aircraft skidded to a rest, suffering damage to the propellers and the lower engine cowling.