

No:12/88

Ref: EW/G88/10/05

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Grumman AA-5B, G-TYGA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4K piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and Time (UTC): 9 October 1988 at 1620 hrs

Location: Biggin Hill Airport, Kent

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to port wing

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

Commander's Age: 34 Years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 235 hours (of which 200 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot and AAIB discussion with maintenance organisation

After a check for carburettor icing and a satisfactory power check the aircraft took-off from runway 21. At 400 feet a total loss of power was experienced and a forced landing made into a field ahead of the runway centre line.

Heavy rainfall had occurred the previous day and, despite having thoroughly drained the tanks before flight and a 25 minute engine run at the hold, the pilot attributed the engine failure to possible water contamination brought about by a steep climb disturbing residual water in the tank.

This diagnosis was confirmed by the maintenance organisation who drained half a pint of water from the fuel tanks.