Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199000026

Grumman G164B

12 November 1990

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 199000026 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 11 km north-west of Coleambally NSW

Date: 12 November 1990 **Time:** 1930

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Grumman G164B

Registration: VH-HCR

Serial Number: 5B

Operation Type: Aerial Work **Damage Level:** Destroyed

Departure Point: 11 km north-west of Coleambally NSW

Departure Time: 1929

Destination: 11 km north-west of Coleambally NSW

Approved for Release: 27th November 1990

Circumstances:

Immediately after take-off from an agricultural airstrip the aircraft suffered a loss of power and a large quantity of oil from the engine covered the windscreen obsuring the pilot's forward vision. The pilot attempted to return to the airstrip but touched down at a very slow speed in a paddock approximately 200 metres from the airstrip. During the landing roll the aircraft entered an irrigation channel and tipped up on its nose causing the engine to separate from the airframe. Fuel leaking from the severed fuel line onto the hot engine and exhaust pipe ignited, and the ensuing fire rapidly engulfed the aircraft. It was found that the number three cylinder head had separated from the cylinder barrel. This accident was not the subject of an on scene invetigation.