

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199000084**

Grumman AA5

26 April 1990

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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.

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199000084 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Rottnest Island WA
Date: 26 April 1990 **Time:** 1040
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Grumman AA5
Registration: VH-SYM
Serial Number: AA5B-0295
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Rottnest Island WA
Departure Time: 1035
Destination: Jandakot WA

Approved for Release: 22nd June 1990

Circumstances:

A weather front was approaching Rottnest Island from the north-west. The pilot departed before the weather arrived, climbing to 1500 feet whilst intercepting the south easterly track to Jandakot. Shortly after reaching 1500 feet, the weather closed in and the pilot was unable to avoid entering cloud. The pilot did not request assistance from Perth Air Traffic Services. Instead he turned towards the island and commenced an instrument descent expecting to descend clear of the cloud and land at Rottnest without difficulty. The aircraft exited the cloud at a low height above the sea, to be suddenly confronted with boats and land. During the sharp left hand avoidance turn, the left wing struck the water. The aileron was torn off and the wing and fuselage were damaged by the impact. The pilot retained control and carried out an emergency landing at Rottnest Island airport.