

## **ACCIDENT**

### ***Involving the glider registered D-6203***

<b>Event:</b>	Failed emergency landing with tailwind.
<b>Identified cause:</b>	Incorrect assessment of wind direction.
<b>Consequences and damage:</b>	Glider severely damaged.
<b>Type of aircraft:</b>	Glasflügel H 304 glider.
<b>Date and time:</b>	18 July 2000 at 14 h 15.
<b>Owner:</b>	Private.
<b>Place:</b>	La Roque Esclapon (83).
<b>Type of flight:</b>	Circuit.
<b>Persons on board:</b>	Pilot.
<b>Licenses and experience:</b>	German pilot, 52, VV issued by Germany in 1976, 1600 flying hours of which 400 on type and 150 in the previous three months.
<b>Meteorological conditions:</b>	Estimated at the site: wind 90°/15 to 20 kt, SCT at 3000 ft, visibility 10 kilometres.

#### **Circumstances**

The glider took off from Fayence AD (83) at 11 h 30. Returning from a flight in the Mount Ventoux area, the pilot reckoned that he would not be able to reach Fayence. He decided to land in a listed field, with no windsock, located at about 5 km from Fayence AD. Estimating that the wind was coming from the west, he made his approach and lined up on final facing west. After a first touchdown two thirds of the way down the field, the pilot reckoned that he would not be able to stop before the end of the field and pulled up. The glider struck a clump of trees with the right wing. The glider finally landed on a wheat field situated lower down.

The meteorological conditions on the ground showed a 15 to 20 kt easterly wind. The pilot may have been misled by a confluence between a sea breeze coming from the east in low layers and a gradient wind coming from the west at altitude. His opinion may have been confirmed by information from the meteorological beacon at Mount Lachens which indicated a light southerly wind.



