

ACCIDENT

involving the motorised glider registered D-KJWD

Event:	Missed field landing.
Probable causes:	Late decision to make a field landing. Erroneous evaluation of height.

Consequences and damage:	Aircraft severely damaged.
Type of aircraft:	Schempp Hirth "Janus" CM motorized glider.
Date and time:	Monday 23 July 2001 at 17 h 00.
Owner:	Private.
Place:	Semnoz Mountain (74), altitude 1,600 metres.
Type of flight:	Local.
Persons on board:	Pilot + 1.
Licenses and experience:	Pilot, aged 50, VV issued by Holland in 1992, 495 flying hours of which 60 on type and 41 in the previous 3 months.
Meteorological conditions:	Estimated at the accident site: wind variable 4 to 6 kt, visibility over 10 km, FEW at 1,000 feet, temperature 22 °C.

Circumstances

The pilot took off with the winch from Challes-les-Eaux (73) aerodrome, altitude 330 metres, at 14 h 17. After about 3 hours flying, in the area of the Semnoz Mountain, the pilot flew over a plateau located at an altitude of 1,600 metres. Not finding any updrafts, he thought of heading towards the valley but realised that he did not have enough altitude to reach it. He decided to land in a field when he was at a height of about thirty metres. He chose a field which sloped upwards located to the right of his track. During his turn to the right, the tip of the right wing struck the ground.

The pilot explained that he made a late decision to land in a field (less than a minute before the accident). He did not try to use his engine because that manoeuvre takes from thirty seconds to a minute and reduces the glider's aerodynamic efficiency.

The pilot added that it was his first year of flying in the northern Alps and that he had performed four flights in the region during the year, either as pilot or as passenger.



D-KJWD on 23 July 2001