

ACCIDENT

to the glider registered F-CHDS

Event :	collision with trees.
Probable cause:	incomplete perception of the environment.

Consequences and damages:	aircraft severely damaged.
Aircraft:	single-seat Centrair C 101 A " Pégase " glider.
Date and time:	Thursday 7 June 2001 at 16 h 15.
Operator:	private.
Place:	Les Ramiettes, near Presles (38), altitude 1400 metres.
Nature of flight:	circuit.
Persons on board:	pilot.
Qualifications and experience :	pilot, aged 51, PPGL issued 1979, 860 flying hours, of which 339 on type and 67 in the previous three months, all on type.
Meteorological Conditions:	estimated at the site of the accident : wind 040°/ 10 kt, visibility over 10km, FEW at 5000 feet.

Circumstances

Information on the conduct of this flight was obtained from the pilot.

He took off from Grenoble Le Versoud at 12 h 53. After an hour and fifteen minutes flying, he arrived in the Ramavoula point sector (see chart on following page). He went into a left spiral over the area known as Les Ramiettes. The updraft, difficult to centre, was at 1 m / s.

The indicated speed of the glider was 100 km / h. At the level of the ridge, the vertical speed became negative. In order to shift a little to the east where cumulus was forming, the pilot changed the direction of his spiral. Although he began this manoeuvre at the farthest point from the high ground, he found himself facing a ridge whose presence he had not noticed and whose contours he had not evaluated. He picked up speed and pulled up to cross the high ground. The aircraft touched the line of trees with its left wing without having stalled and crashed to the ground. The pilot had already flown over the area but had never flown over this ridge. He added that the light was un-contrasted. This phenomenon may have contributed to his incomplete perception of the environment.

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Estimated track of the glider reconstituted from onboard GPS data

