

## **ACCIDENT**

### ***involving the glider registered PH-927***

<b>Event:</b>	Collision with trees.
<b>Probable cause:</b>	Failure to take into account the meteorological conditions during return flight.

<b>Consequences and damage:</b>	Right wing and cabin damaged.
<b>Type of aircraft:</b>	Rolladen Schneider LS 7 glider.
<b>Date and time:</b>	Friday 13 July 2001 at about 16 h 00.
<b>Owner:</b>	Private.
<b>Place:</b>	Guillestre (05).
<b>Type of flight:</b>	Local.
<b>Persons on board:</b>	Pilot
<b>Licenses and experience:</b>	Pilot, VV issued by Holland, 400 flying hours of which 32 in the previous six months.
<b>Meteorological conditions:</b>	Estimated at the accident site: wind 270°/15 to 20 kt, CAVOK.

#### **Circumstances**

In the context of a glider course carried out at the Saint-Crépin aero club, the pilot set off for a local flight towards the Col Agnel, then Mount Viso. At three thousand metres altitude, the pilot tried to use updrafts. Not succeeding in doing so, the atmosphere being very turbulent, he decided to return towards the aerodrome by taking the most direct return heading. The glider was subjected to strong downdrafts when crossing north-south oriented ridges. While crossing one of these ridges, near the Bucher peak, the glider struck the top of the trees on the ridge. The glider fell 200 metres down the slope, on its back.

The pilot had been following a glider course at the Saint-Crépin aero club since 3 July, during which he had flown about fifteen hours. He had attended the pilot and weather briefings the same morning. The conditions on the day were good for mountain flying, but quite turbulent. The Saint-Auban weather centre (see following page) forecast a rapid airstream from the west with winds from the west of about thirty knots at three thousand metres altitude.

The pilot, under stress and wishing to return to the departure aerodrome as quickly as possible, did not take advantage of the existing updrafts.

**Glider Bulletin on 13/07 at 08 h 57**

**Aerological Bulletin for gliding and free flight over the southern Alps with the St-Auban SSBC sounding.**

Bulletin for Friday 13 July 2001

**General situation:**

At altitude: rapid cyclonic airstream from the west, turning south-west.

Deepening of a trough over the near Atlantic.

On the ground: edge of a disturbed airstream which is crossing France. Passage of high clouds, more numerous in the northern region. Destabilization of the air mass with some isolated storms over high ground

QNH: 1015 hPa.

FL 75 : 2,300 m (standard 2,286 m)

FL 115 : 3,520 m (standard 3,505 m)

FL 195 : 5,960 m (standard 5,944 m)

Sunset : 21 h 17.

**Forecast winds for this afternoon:**

Surface : West 10 kt, South-West 5/10 kt in the Rhone valley.

1,500 m : West-North-West 10/15 kt.

3,000 m : West 30 kt.

5,000 m : West 35/40 kt.

**Air mass:**

Saint-Auban sounding at 0530 UTC:

Air dry. Ground inversion at 1,500 m (reading 27° C at 12/13 local time), unstable from 1,500 to 2,500 m, stable from 2,500 to 2,800 m, small inversion from 2,800 to 3,000 m, unstable above.

Temperatures at Saint-Auban: observed yesterday: 32 degrees, forecast today: 32 degrees.

Iso 0° C: at 4,000 m. Iso -10 °C: at 5,100 m.

Cloud: 5 to 6/8 of Ac + Ci on North zone, 3 to 4 to the South. Some isolated Cb over high ground.

**Thermal updrafts:** over plain towards 2,900 metres. Over mid level ground 3,700 metres. Over high ground 4,000 metres.

Dynamic updrafts: waves from the West.

**Special conditions:** isolated storms over high ground

Evolution for Saturday 14:

At altitude: Air flow from the South-West with deepening trough over western France. The front is undulating and crossing our region the following night.

On the ground: Destabilization of the air mass. Storm activity in the afternoon.

