

ACCIDENT

involving the glider registered HB-3149

Event:	Asymmetric stall on final, collision with the ground.
Probable cause:	Failure to take into account the effects of the wind, insistence on returning to the runway reserved for gliders.

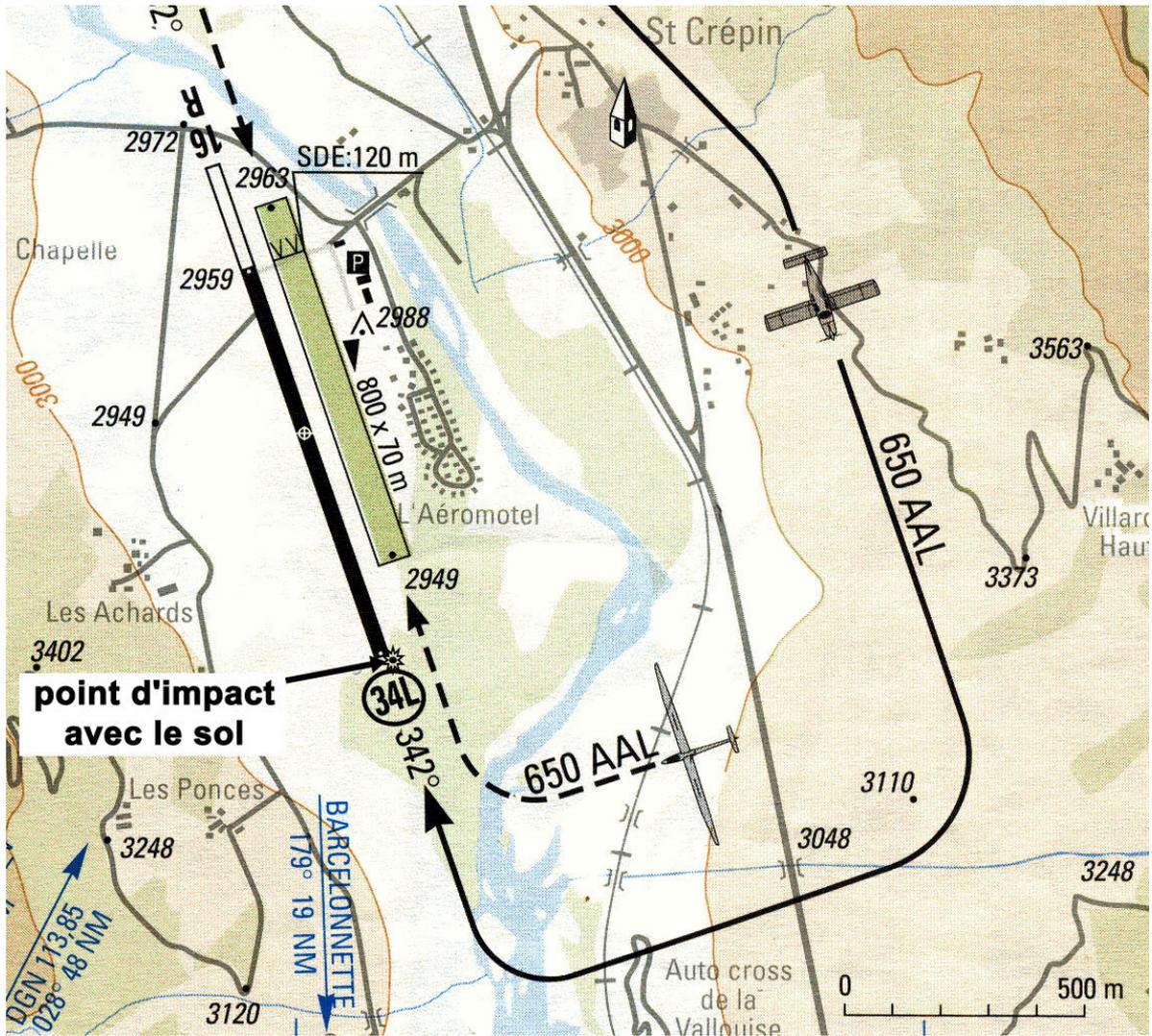
Consequences and damage:	Pilot killed, glider destroyed.
Type of aircraft:	Rolladen Schneider LS 6 C glider.
Date and time:	Tuesday 2 April 2002 at 18 h 00.
Owner:	Club.
Place:	Mont-Dauphin (05) AD.
Type of flight:	Circuit.
Persons on board:	Pilot.
Licenses and experience:	Pilot, aged 69, VV issued by Switzerland in 1967, 2,480 flying hours of which 731 on type and 15 in the previous month.
Meteorological conditions:	Estimated at the aerodrome: wind 080°/12 to 20 kt, CAVOK.

Circumstances

After a flight lasting four hours and fifteen minutes, the pilot rejoined the aerodrome circuit for a landing on runway 34R. Witnesses on the ground (the chief pilot and his deputy) located 800 metres from the accident site, explained that the glider was coming in with tailwind on the right at a height which seemed to them to be lower than the standard circuit and at a speed which seemed to them to be low. They saw the glider, at the end of the tailwind leg, turn to the right with a slight bank which remained constant until the final. The glider then appeared to be lined up on runway 34L with a low speed and at a height of about fifty metres. The glider adopted a nose up attitude, went into a stall to the right and crashed into the ground after one complete spin.

The glider hit the ground nine metres to the right of the threshold of paved runway 34L, with a nose down attitude. The landing gear was found extended and locked down. The pilot knew the area and the aerodrome well. On the day of the accident, the meteorological conditions were unusual due to a wind from the eastern sector.

It is probable that the pilot, finding himself on the runway 34L extended centreline, tried to maintain sufficient height to reach the runway reserved for the use of gliders.



HB-3149 on 2 April 2002