ACCIDENT

involving the motorised glider registered D-KHJG

Event: Collision with a tree during an attempted field landing.

Probable causes: Late decision to return to the home aerodrome and to

try to start up the retractable engine.

Attempt to start the engine outside an area within

gliding distance of a listed landing field.

Consequences and damage: Aircraft slightly damaged.

Type of aircraft: Schempp Hirth « Discus » BT motorised glider.

Date and time: Friday 16 March 2001 around 11 h 45.

Owner: Private.

Place: Barcelonnette (04).

Type of flight: Local.

Persons on board: German pilot.

Licenses and experience: Not available.

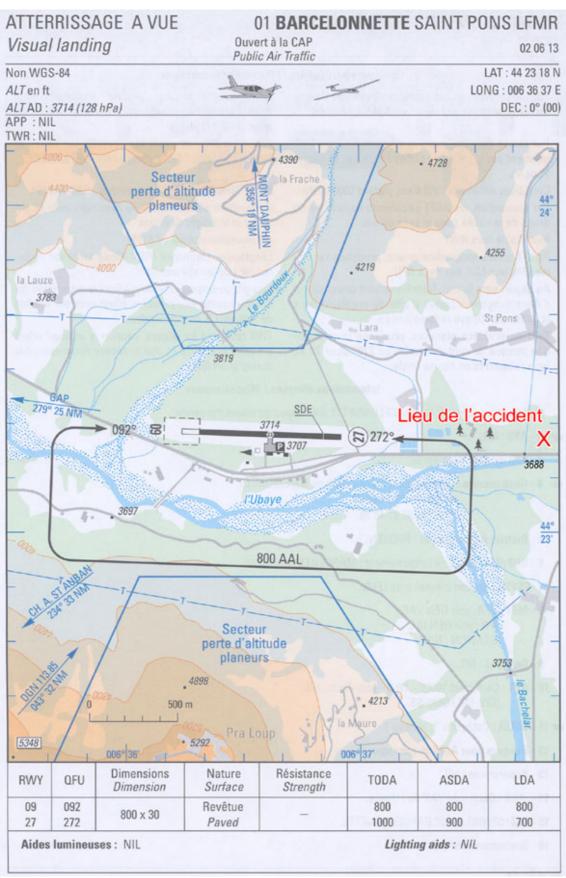
Meteorological conditions: Not available.

Circumstances

The following elements are drawn from indications from the pilot that were obtained before his return to his country of origin. It was impossible to obtain additional information from the pilot.

He explained that he took off from Barcelonnette aerodrome at 11 h 30 and tried to take advantage of an updraft after release of the tow, without success. The glider lost altitude rapidly. The pilot judged that he was too low to try to get back to the aerodrome and extended the retractable engine. He was not able to start it and made an emergency landing in a field located one and a half kilometres from runway 27. During final on the field, the motorised glider's right wing struck a tree.

The pilot had been flying for about 10 years in the Barcelonnette region. He was performing his seventh flight since his arrival in the region.



D-KHJG on 16 March 2001