

ACCIDENT

involving the glider registered D-4407

D-4407 OF 14 MARCH 1999

Event:	Collision with trees
Probable cause:	Incorrect assessment of aerology near terrain.

Consequences and damage:	Pilot killed, glider destroyed.
Type of aircraft:	Przedsiębiorstwo Doswiadczalno SZD 55-1, single-seat glider.
Date and time:	Sunday 14 March 1999 at 15 h 50.
Owner:	Club.
Place:	La Motte du Caire (04), south-west slope of Mount Jalinier, altitude 1400 metres.
Type of flight:	Local.
Persons on board:	Pilot.
Licenses and experience:	Pilot 34, VV issued by Germany, around 275 flying hours, hours on type unknown.
Meteorological conditions:	Estimated at the site: wind 140° to 160°/14 to 20 kt, visibility 20 km, cloud 2/8 Cu base at 1800 m, 3 to 4/8 of Ac base towards 3000 m, 6 to 7/8 de Ci towards 7500 m, temperature 6 °C, turbulence moderate locally strong on crests between 1500 and 2000 metres.

Circumstances

The pilot had arrived at La Motte du Caire two days before accompanied by other members of his aeroclub. He was performing his first solo flight after a dual control check flight the day before. It appears that these were his first flights since June 1998. The aircraft was winched at 14 h 50 without incident and at about 15 h 45 the pilot said on the radio that he was flying over the summit of La Malaup seven kilometres north of the field. At about 15 h 50 another glider in flight signalled the presence of the wreck of the D-4407 about 100 m below the summit of Mount Jalinier, located about 5 km north-east of the AD. Examination of the site and the wreckage showed that the aircraft had struck the tops of several small trees before crashing into a larger tree facing south-east, on a slope with a steep south-west facing slope. It was probably flying at quite a low speed.

Taking into account the terrain and the meteorological conditions, the pilot probably encountered unfavourable aerology.



