

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701416**

**Schempp-Hirth Ventus A
Alexander Schleicher ASW 20**

12 January 1987

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198701416
Location: 3 km South of Benalla VIC
Date: 12 January 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: a) 1250 b) 1230

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	2	2
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details:	Schempp-Hirth Ventus A	Alexander Schleicher ASW 20
Registration:	VH-FQS	VH-KYF
Serial Number:		
Operation Type:	Private (Gliding)	Private (Gliding)
Damage Level:	Minor	Substantial
Departure Point:	Benalla VIC	Benalla VIC
Departure Time:	1250	1230
Destination:	Benalla VIC	

Approved for Release: April 29th 1987

Circumstances:

A large group of pilots were practicing for the forthcoming World Gliding Championships. There were a number of weak thermals in the area near the starting gate position, and there were several gliders in each thermal. The pilot of VH-FQS encountered a surge of lift and commenced to increase the angle of bank and pull up, achieving a climb rate of about 6 knots. Shortly afterwards, the canopy of this aircraft struck the wing of VH-KYF, which was at a climb rate of about 4 knots. The canopy was shattered, and the left flap of VH-KYF was broken in half. The pilots maintained control of their aircraft, and subsequently landed safely. Neither pilot had seen the other aircraft in the thermal prior to the collision. The competitive nature of the exercise and the large number of aircraft in the area combined to present an operational hazard to those involved.