

Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198801405

Glasflugel Mosquito

13 November 1988

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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: 198801405
Location: Cobram VIC
Date: 13 November 1988
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1545

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Glasflugel Mosquito
Registration: VH-FQO
Serial Number: 171
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Benalla VIC
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Benalla VIC

Approved for Release: March 6th 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting a navigational exercise from Benalla to Benalla via overhead Tocumwal N.S.W. The wind conditions were northerly and gusting. The pilot realised he would be unable to effect a return and decided to outland. A paddock was chosen which appeared suitable and provided a good landing run into wind. However the paddock had been ploughed and grass had grown to 0.3 metres high. Following touchdown well into the field the combination of rough ground medium high grass and heavy braking caused the glider to ground loop breaking the rear fuselage as it did so. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered revelant to the development of the accident

1. Strong winds and lack of updraughts caused termination of exercise.
2. Rough surface and long grass present in paddock chosen for outlanding.
3. Touchdown well into field required heavy braking due fence ahead.
4. Surface grass and braking resulted in ground loop.