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Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198501400

Glasflugel Mosquito

9 June 1985

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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: 198501400 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 36 km SSE of Horsham VIC

Date: 9 June 1985 **Time:** 1230

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	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-GSZ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Ridge Soaring **Damage Level:** Substantial

Departure Point: Dadswells Bridge VIC

Departure Time: 1110

Destination: Dadswells Bridge VIC

Approved for Release: 19th July 1985

Circumstances:

During ridge soaring operations, areas of sink were encountered and the aircraft descended over forested terrain. The only area suitable for an outlanding was a small deer enclosure. The pilot initially overshot the area and during the turn to re-position the aircraft for landing the right wing struck the fence surrounding the enclosure. The aircraft yawed through 90 degrees before impacting the ground in a level attitude. Although general soaring conditions were poor, the pilot had elected to leave the ridge-line to conduct a sight seeing flight. During this flight a wind change moved through the area. On return to the ridge-line the pilot, who had not detected the wind change, persisted with efforts to find an area of lift. The proximity of the aircraft to the tops of the trees and the small size of the deer enclosure precluded the pilot sighting the clearing in time to conduct a straight-in approach.