

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198802375

Blanik L-13

25 June 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: 198802375 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Carrick (16 km NE of Goulburn) NSW
Date: 25 June 1988 **Time:** 1350
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Blanik L-13
Registration: VH-GVJ
Serial Number: 174807
Operation Type: Private (Gliding)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Carrick NSW
Departure Time: 1345
Destination: Carrick NSW

Approved for Release: November 10th 1988

Circumstances:

An aircraft maintenance engineer, who assisted the gliding group with maintenance aspects, was making a video movie of the glider operations. He was seen to be standing to the right-hand side, and well clear of the strip, near to the point where takeoffs were commenced. During the circuit by the particular glider, he moved to the edge of the strip to film the approach and landing. The colour of his clothing blended in with the high clumps of grass and general colour of the terrain, and the pilot did not detect his presence. When looking through the viewfinder of the camera, the photographer would have been led to believe that the glider was well clear of him. While panning the camera to film the landing run, he was struck on the neck by the wing of the passing aircraft.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. The photographer probably experienced a visual illusion by observing the approach and landing through the camera viewfinder. He was evidently unaware of his actual proximity to the wing.
2. The pilot did not notice the photographer, as the latter's clothing blended in with the terrain.