

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700734**

Grob Twin Astir

8 June 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: 198700734

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Black Springs (25 km S Burra) SA

Date: 8 June 1987

Time: 944

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	2	0

Aircraft Details: Grob Twin Astir

Registration: VH-KYL

Serial Number: 3062

Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Black Springs SA

Departure Time: 930

Destination: Black Springs SA

Approved for Release: August 19th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was participating in a "ridge soaring camp". After becoming airborne the glider was flown at low level in a south-westerly direction along the ridge line, about 200 feet above the ridge. The pilot then turned the aircraft left towards the ridge in an attempt to gain lift. No lift was gained and the aircraft descended. The pilot then raised the nose of the aircraft to clear the ridge but the right wing struck a tree. The aircraft slewed to the right and descended down the ridge line before impacting the ground. The pilot had intended to turn back towards the ridge but delayed this turn to allow her passenger to take a photograph. The resultant flight path took the aircraft into an area of sink on the leeward side of the ridge. The pilot usually flew the glider from the front cockpit but due to centre of gravity considerations she had to use the rear cockpit which somewhat restricted her forward vision. The volume of the variometer, which was fitted in the front cockpit, was turned down so as not to disturb the passenger, however this action also deprived the pilot of immediate indication of changes in lift. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.