

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/93 **Ref: EW/G93/05/31** **Category: 1c**

Aircraft Type and Registration: Glaser Dirks DG-400, G-HAJJ
No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 505 piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1988
Date & Time (UTC): 28 May 1993 at 1200 hrs
Location: Trevellas Airfield, Cornwall
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (GP.A/SLMG)
Commander's Age: 58 years
Commander's Flying Experience: 616 hours (of which 207 were on type)
Last 90 days - 5 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was making a normal glider approach with the engine retracted. Full flap had been selected but the pilot then experienced doubt about whether he had selected the landing gear down; he was fairly certain he had done the prelanding check but could not be positive about it. Although he had checked it before the flight he did not want to rely completely on the audio warning system and so, contrary to his normal practice, he moved his hand from the airbrake lever to the landing gear lever. Having confirmed that the landing gear was indeed down he moved his hand back up towards the airbrake lever. As he moved the lever forward the aircraft's rate of descent increased rapidly; a heavy landing ensued and the landing gear collapsed. The pilot was wearing full upper torso restraint and escaped without injury.

When he checked the controls after the incident the pilot found the flap lever in the negative 4° position; he concluded that, after he had checked the landing gear lever, he had moved his hand up onto the flap lever instead of the airbrake lever.

In his comprehensive account of the accident the pilot made another observation of note. When he checked the position of the landing gear lever he also looked down to confirm the lever position; he experienced a slight feeling of disorientation which gave him the impression that either the "speed was decaying" or the "rate of descent was increasing". He immediately looked up again and found everything apparently normal.