



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



MAAS 10/81
3 August 1981

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE HUNTER FGA MK 9 XG 261

Date: 28 May 1980
Parent Airfield: RAF Lossiemouth, Morayshire, Scotland
Crew: One (pilot)
Casualties: One (pilot) seriously injured

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The pilot of Hunter XG 261 was a student at a tactical weapons unit (TWU) engaged, with another Hunter aircraft, in an air combat manoeuvring (ACM) exercise. During the latter stage of the first ACM engagement the student pulled up into a wing-over manoeuvre, both aircraft reaching their apogee at about 25000 ft. As he began to descend the student saw that his speed was low; he therefore selected full power and accelerated in a dive towards his adversary. With his dive angle at about 30° he rolled towards the other aircraft and pulled back on the control column. The aircraft failed to respond, so he rolled wings level and attempted to recover. The dive angle progressively increased and the pilot unsuccessfully tried to locate the tailplane interconnect switch, to increase the effectiveness of the tailplane. He then noticed the altimeter indicating a rapid descent through 11,000 feet and, abandoning further efforts to regain control, he ejected. The aircraft crashed on open moorland and was destroyed. The pilot's ejection was successful although he suffered a broken arm and facial damage commensurate with an ejection at high speed.

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CAUSE

2. Examination of the wreckage showed that at impact both wing flaps were in the 23 degree down position. It is normal to select flap "down" during ACM to improve the Hunter's low speed handling characteristics. However, if the flap is not selected "up" before a speed of M0.9/300 kts is reached the aircraft will pitch progressively nose down. The Hunter cannot be recovered from this situation without the flaps being selected "up". The circumstances of this accident indicate this cause.

CLAIMS

3. A claim for loss of 1 day's grouse shooting, disturbance to game, damage to land and miscellaneous expenses was settled in the sum of £1782.

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