



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

MOD LIBRARY

12 DEC 1980

ASTRAL HOUSE

MAAS 7/80

10 December 1980

### AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE JAGUARS GR1 XX 961 AND GR1 XX 964

Date: 28 May 1980

Parent Airfield: RAF Brüggen, Federal Republic of Germany

Place of Accident: RAF Brüggen

Crew: One pilot in each aircraft

Casualties: One killed

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

1. A formation of four Jaguars was returning to the airfield to break and land from arrow formation (see Annex). The leader broke normally and, once established in his turn, looked back and to his left. He saw the No 2 aircraft very close to him and getting closer. Realising that a collision was imminent, he attempted to change his flight path but there was insufficient time for his aircraft to react. The two Jaguars collided and caught fire. The leader ejected and was uninjured but the No 2 pilot did not eject and was killed. One Jaguar crashed on the airfield and the other crashed in a wooded area just outside the airfield boundary.

#### CAUSE

2. There is no evidence of technical malfunction of either aircraft prior to the collision. Breaking from arrow formation is a routine manoeuvre. Using visual references pilots time their breaks in sequence and follow a pre-planned flight path (shown in the annex), which in this case would have led them to land in-line and suitably spaced. It appears that the No 2 aircraft broke formation early and at about the same time as the leading aircraft. It is possible that prior to breaking formation, the No 2 pilot lost visual contact with the leading aircraft. The almost simultaneous breaks would place the aircraft in unexpected positions in relation to one another and create mid-air collision conditions with insufficient time for the No 2 pilot to regain visual contact and take avoiding action.

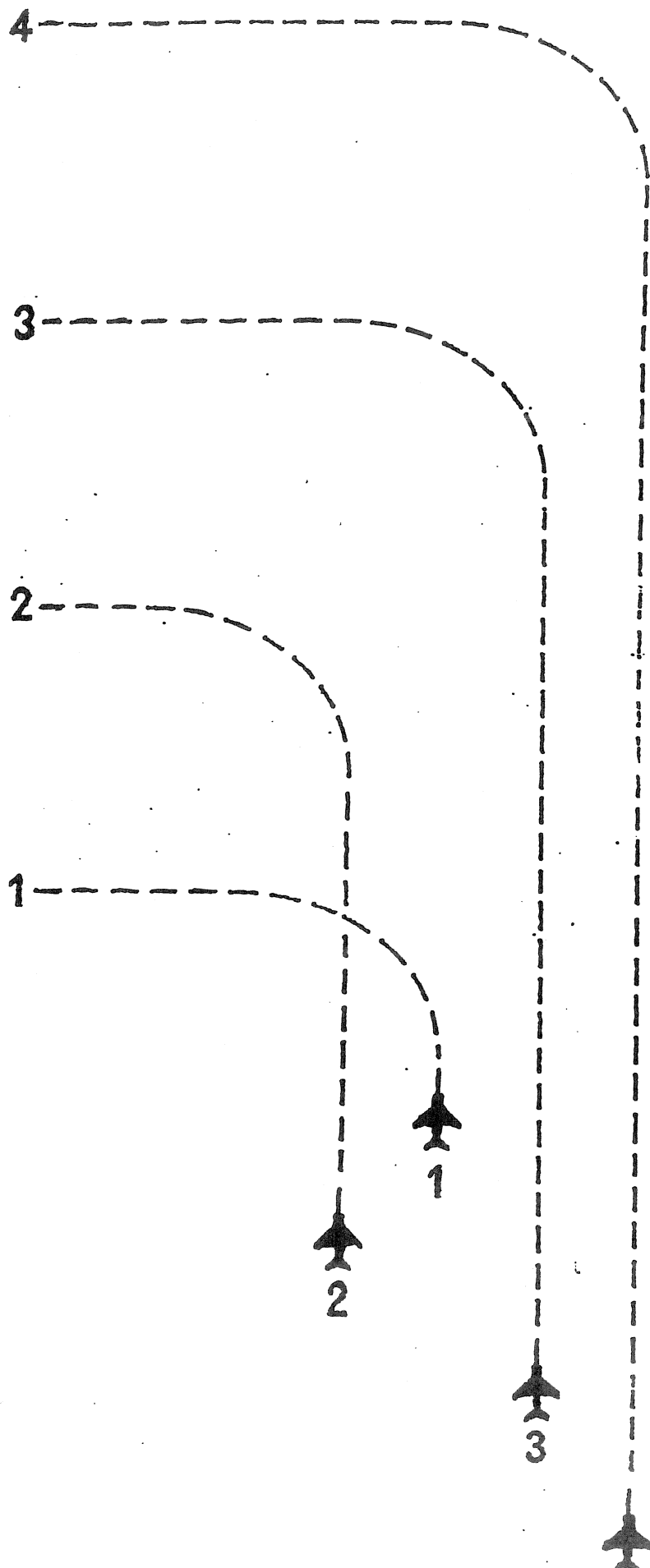
#### CLAIMS

3. No claims have been received for damage to civilian property.

ANNEX:

23.746: 656.7.08

STANDARD BREAK FROM ARROW FORMATION



M.O.D.  
CENTRAL L.S.A.  
623.746:656.7.08  
Great Britain. Ministry  
of Defence. Public Relations.  
12/12/80

Formation runs in at 420K,  
500 ft.  
No 2 flies slightly below  
the leader.  
At the break point, leader  
pulls up positively before  
turning onto a downwind leg  
at 1,000 ft.  
No 2 remains level for 2 to  
3 seconds before turning.  
No 3 and No 4 follow,  
carrying out the same  
manoeuvre as No 2 with the  
same time interval between  
each aircraft.

Issued by - Public Relations  
(Royal Air Force)  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB  
01-218 3253/4