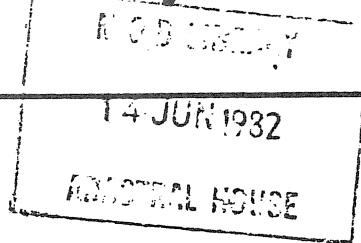




MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



11 June 1982

MAAS 11/82

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE JAGUAR GR1 XX973

Date: 14 April 1981
Parent Airfield: Royal Air Force Bruggen, Federal Republic of Germany
Place of Accident: 6nm South-West of Gutersloh, Federal Republic of Germany
Crew: One Pilot
Casualties: One minor injury (pilot)

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Jaguar XX973 was being flown as the aggressor for a formation of Jaguars engaged in medium level air combat training. After completing a successful attack on the formation leader, the pilot of XX973 decided to break off the engagement. He was flying at 16,000 ft in a climbing, 60° banked turn with the speed reducing below 280 kts. As he increased his angle of attack to turn away, his aircraft encountered slipstream and then entered a spin. The pilot's attempts to recover from the spin were unsuccessful and, as XX973 passed 7,500 ft still out of control, he ejected. He received only minor cuts and bruises but XX973 crashed into a field 50 metres from a farmhouse and was destroyed.

CAUSE

2. There was no evidence to suggest that a technical malfunction of the flying controls caused the pilot to lose control of the aircraft. However, when the pilot elected to disengage, XX973 was flying at an angle of attack close to its limit for the configuration; as the pilot increased the angle of attack, the aircraft encountered slipstream which effectively increased the angle of attack further, and control was lost. Since he had insufficient height to recover from the situation the only option left was ejection.

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SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

3 The inherent dangers of flying the Jaguar at or beyond its limiting angle of attack and the characteristics of its spin have been re-emphasised both at the training unit and on the Squadrons. Methods of further improving the stall warning system in the Jaguar are being considered.

CLAIMS

4. DM17, 140 has been paid in settlement of claims arising from this accident.

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