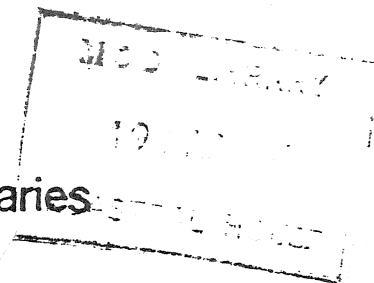




MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



MAAS 3/85

18 March 1985

ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE HARRIER XV787

Date: 22 March 1983
Parent Airfield: RAF Stanley
Place of Accident: 2nm E of RAF Stanley
Crew: One
Casualties: 1 Major injury

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The pilot of XV787 was flying as the No 2 of a pair of Harriers which were operating from RAF Stanley. On rejoining the airfield circuit, he closed his throttle and noticed an unusual transient resonance as the engine rpm reduced. After lowering undercarriage and flaps, he moved the throttle forward but the engine did not respond; further attempts to restore thrust were unsuccessful. The leader of the pair saw that XV787 was low, slow and descending and told the pilot to eject; he did so immediately but incurred a spinal injury. The aircraft crashed into the sea well clear of all shipping.

CAUSE

2. Examination of the engine revealed extensive pre-crash damage to the high pressure (HP) compressor. Several blades had failed through fatigue which originated from damage marks. A sealing plug from a Huck blind rivet was found in the engine's combustion chamber, the dimensions and material of which matched the damage marks on the HP compressor blades. It was not possible to determine precisely when or how the item entered the engine.

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