



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

MAAS 14/84

20 July 1984

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE JET PROVOST

T3A XN 495

Date: 30 March 1983

Parent Airfield: RAF Church Fenton, Tadcaster

Place of Accident: RAF Elvington

Crew: Two

Casualties: 2 Major

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On climbing away from a roller landing at RAF Elvington, a relief landing ground for RAF Church Fenton, an instructor and student experienced a malfunction in the engine start system at 350 ft. This malfunction caused thrust variations and unusual noises from the engine and the instructor turned the aircraft back towards the airfield. As the aircraft was too low to reach the runway safely, the instructor attempted to land on a taxiway but while he was attempting to lower the undercarriage the right wing struck the ground and broke off. The aircraft slid across the airfield for 140 yds before it came to rest. During the crash-landing both pilots suffered major back injuries.

CAUSE

2. An investigation into the cause of the accident found that there had been a fatigue failure in the engine ground start switch which had caused a short circuit between two terminals. This activated the start cycle which caused the variations in thrust and the unusual noises which were heard by the instructor. The investigation also found that the pilot had mishandled the aircraft during the forced landing, though this was not the primary cause of the accident.

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