



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summary

Aircraft:	Hawk T1 XX166
Date of accident:	24 June 1983
Parent Airfield:	RAF Valley, Anglesey
Place of accident:	Isle of Man
Crew:	Two
Casualties:	Two Fatal

Circumstances

1. On the 24 June 1983 an instructor and his student took off from RAF Valley in Hawk XX166, the third aircraft in a stream of four, on a navigation exercise that was to include a transit flight to the northern tip of the Isle of Man, a low level training exercise through Scotland and a landing at RAF Lossiemouth. The first two aircraft in the stream encountered poor weather near the Isle of Man, as did the fourth, but all completed the exercise without any further problems and landed safely at Lossiemouth. However, XX166 failed to reach Lossiemouth and consequently a search was commenced: the wreckage of the aircraft was found, by a search and rescue helicopter, on high ground in the Isle of Man. Both pilots were dead in the wreckage. No attempt had been made to eject from the aircraft.

Cause

2. Despite the fact that there were no witnesses to the actual crash and the accident data recorder malfunctioned, it was nevertheless possible to surmise what happened with a high degree of confidence from information gained from the wreckage, circumstantial evidence from a number of witnesses and from radar evidence. The accident was believed to have been caused by the crew of XX166 making a navigation error and, when they thought they were over the sea, letting down to 1,500 feet while still in cloud in an attempt to regain visual contact with the surface. The aircraft struck rising ground in straight and level flight and disintegrated on impact.

Claims

3. One claim has been paid, in the sum of £65, as a result of damage to a gate and post caused during the wreckage recovery.