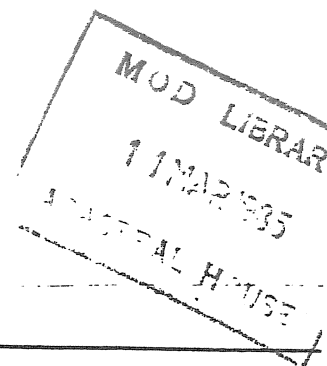




MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



MAAS 1/85

8 March 1985

ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE HAWK T1 XX353 AND HAWK T1 XX336

Date: 29 July 1983

Parent Airfield: RAF Chivenor, Devon

Place of Accident: Holsworthy, near Bude, Devon

Crews: 4 Pilots

Casualties: 2 Major

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On 29 July 1983, 2 Hawk aircraft, each occupied by an instructor and student, carried out a series of tailchase manoeuvres as part of a normal formation training sortie. Shortly after the lead aircraft had entered a shallow climb, the instructor in the second aircraft realized that his student, who was flying the aircraft at the time, had reduced the margin of separation between the 2 aircraft to such an extent that a collision seemed imminent. The instructor took control of the aircraft and executed a roll to pull away from the lead aircraft; this did not prevent a collision which seriously damaged both aircraft. The second aircraft, XX353, was rendered uncontrollable and the crew had no option but to eject immediately. Both ejections were successful but the student received injuries, including a back injury, which were later classed as major. The aircraft crashed in open country spreading debris over a wide area.

2. The crew of the lead aircraft, XX336, were able to effect a recovery to RAF Chivenor, but the extensive damage to the Hawk's nose section was such that an attempted landing would almost certainly have jeopardised the safety of the instructor in the front seat. Therefore, it was decided that the instructor should eject, and this was safely accomplished over the sea. However, the effects of this ejection, combined with those of the collision damage, made the aircraft uncontrollable and the student was forced also to eject. Both ejections were successful, though the instructor received back injuries, which were later classed as major. The pilots were quickly rescued from the sea by helicopter; the abandoned Hawk crashed into the sea and was destroyed.

CAUSE

3. The accident was caused by pilot error. No blame was attached to the relatively inexperienced student pilot.

CLAIMS

Claims in respect of damage to private property have been settled in the sum of £1580.

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