



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

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ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE JAGUAR GR1 XX114

Date:	19 September 1983
Parent Airfield:	RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland
Place of Accident:	RAF Lossiemouth
Crew:	One
Casualties:	Nil

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On the afternoon of 19 September 1983, a student on the Jaguar Operational Conversion Unit was recovering to RAF Lossiemouth for a visual circuit and landing. The final approach was uneventful until the aircraft reached a position at approximately 100 ft above ground level on finals, when the pilot saw a flock of birds rise from a field just short of the runway. He considered that these birds were a hazard and took avoiding action by commencing an overshoot. However, shortly after commencing the overshoot, the pilot saw another large flock of birds directly ahead of him which he was unable to avoid. The aircraft was struck by at least 19 birds and many of them went down the engine intakes. The aircraft decelerated rapidly, began to descend and flames were seen to be coming from the engine exhausts; at this point the pilot ejected. His ejection was successful, and the aircraft crashed beside the runway and was destroyed.

CAUSE

2. As a result of the multiple birdstrike, both engines suffered a major loss of power and began to break up. The birdstrike occurred at a position from which the pilot was unable to complete a landing, and his decision to eject was considered to have been both timely and correct. It was unfortunate that, despite extensive bird scaring operations at this airfield, the aircraft encountered a flock of lapwings that was in the process of passing through the approach path. Having taken the correct action to avoid one flock of birds, the pilot was powerless to avoid the second.

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