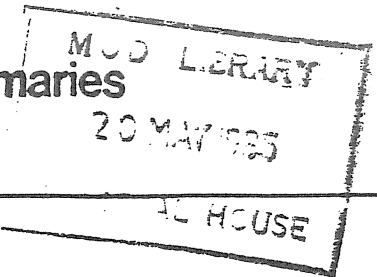




# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



MAAS 10/85

17 May 1985

### AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE HAWK T1 XX257

Date: 31 August 1984  
Parent Airfield: RAF Scampton, Lincoln  
Place of Accident: Sidmouth Bay, Devon  
Crew: One Pilot  
Casualties: Nil

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, were performing an evening display at Sidmouth. As the main formation approached the top of a 'Vixen' loop the pilot of number 8, positioned on the rear right-hand side of the main formation, experienced the symptoms of a surge in the Adour engine of his aircraft. He attempted to regain control of the engine by carrying out all the necessary drills, but was unsuccessful and was therefore forced to eject. The aircraft crashed into the sea some 3 miles off shore. The pilot was rescued by the Sidmouth Inshore Rescue Boat after about 5 minutes and was uninjured.

#### CAUSE

2. The Royal Navy mounted a salvage operation of the wreckage and the engine was recovered. Investigation of it led the cause of the accident to be attributed to the failure of a rotor blade in the low pressure (LP) compressor. The extensive damage to the LP compressor prevented the engine from being relit.

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

3. Adour LP2 compressor blades have now been lifed to preclude further failures, and new blades have been fitted across the entire Hawk fleet in a programme which was completed on 31 March 1985. In addition, a modification has been made to strengthen the area of failure origin by bushing the blade pinhole.

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