



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

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### AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVOLVING ROYAL AIR FORCE HAWK T1 XX180

Date: 7 November 1984.  
Parent Airfield: RAF Valley.  
Place of Accident: RAF Mona.  
Crew: One instructor, one student pilot.  
Casualties: Two with slight injuries.

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

1. During a period of circuit training at RAF Mona, an instructor took control of Hawk XX180 to demonstrate a roller landing. After touching down and applying full power for the subsequent take-off, the instructor noticed a flock of birds ahead and to the right of the runway. He judged that no hazard existed at that stage and so he continued with the take-off. However, just before lift-off the birds moved towards the intended flight path of the aircraft and the instructor levelled the aircraft at a low height over the runway in order to pass beneath them. Some of the birds broke downwards into the aircraft's flight path and this was immediately followed by the sound of an impact and a mechanical grinding noise from the engine. The instructor initiated a climb while he attempted to restore engine thrust; when this proved impossible, he initiated crew ejection at a height of 240 feet. The ejections were successful, although

both pilots suffered slight injuries when they were struck by debris from the canopy. The aircraft crashed in a field and was destroyed.

#### CAUSE

2. Detailed inspection of the aircraft wreckage revealed that bird ingestion had caused the sudden loss of thrust. After examining all the actions taken by the instructor, it was concluded that he chose the least hazardous courses of action throughout and took all possible measures to preserve the aircraft while trying to restore normal operation of the engine. The sole cause of the accident was found to be bird ingestion at a critical stage of flight.

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

3. Consideration is being taken to the establishment of dedicated Bird Control Units at relief landing grounds such as RAF Mona.
4. To prevent injury from canopy debris on ejection, pilots have been reminded of the need to fly with a visor down. In addition, aircrew flying helmets will be modified to provide increased protection.

#### CLAIMS

5. A total of £700 was paid in compensation in respect of damage to land and livestock problems.

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