



## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### Military Aircraft Accident Summary

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Aircraft:	Hawk T1A XX279
Date of accident:	30 January 1985
Parent Airfield:	RAF Chivenor, Devon
Place of accident:	Bristol Channel
Crew:	One Pilot
Casualties:	One Missing Presumed Killed

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#### Circumstances

1. During a 2 versus 1 air combat manoeuvring training sortie, over the Bristol Channel, the solo student pilot reported to his formation leader that he was experiencing lateral control difficulty. Because of the nature of the manoeuvre at the time of his radio transmission, he was temporarily unsighted by the crews of the other 2 aircraft. Upon hearing his transmission the leader advised the student to eject if he could not control the aircraft and he did so at a height of 10,000 ft. Almost simultaneously the crew of the other aircraft regained sight of the student's aircraft and witnessed the ejection after which the aircraft continued in a gentle, turning descent until it hit the sea and was destroyed.

2. The student pilot's parachute descent was observed by the other crew; he appeared to be unconscious and did not follow the trained procedures of lowering his personal survival pack and inflating his life saving jacket. After landing on the sea, he floated face upwards for a few minutes and then disappeared. His body was not recovered.

#### Determination of Causes

3. Despite 5 weeks of salvage effort only a few fragments of XX279 were recovered, insufficient to determine the cause of the accident. On the limited evidence available it was surmised that the student pilot had experienced an aileron malfunction which he considered sufficiently serious to warrant ejection.

#### Subsequent Actions

4. Action is already in hand to introduce automatic operation of life-saving jackets and radio locator beacons for Hawk aircrew.