



## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### Military Aircraft Accident Summary

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Aircraft:	Harrier GR7 ZG473
Date of accident:	29 May 1991
Parent Airfield:	RAF Gutersloh, Germany
Place of accident:	6 miles South-East of Gutersloh
Crew:	One Pilot
Casualties:	1 Minor

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#### Circumstances

1. During an Air Combat Manoeuvring sortie, ZG473 suffered an electrical failure which caused the pilot to initiate a recovery to base. However, the aircraft's single generator failed to reset and the emergency electrical systems also failed to provide power to the aircraft systems, including the engine fuel control units. As the aircraft descended through 2000ft, the engine RPM decayed uncontrollably, leaving the aircraft effectively unpowered; shortly afterwards the pilot selected a clear area and ejected successfully 10km south-east of RAF Gutersloh. The aircraft crashed into a small wood and suffered damage beyond economic repair.

#### Cause

2. The accident was caused by the loss of sufficient engine thrust to maintain flight due to the failure of the electrical power supply to the automatic engine control system. The extreme disruption of the aircraft electrical system was as a result of extensive electrical arcing which caused a fire in the main wiring loom behind the Rear Power Distribution Panel.

### **Subsequent Actions**

3. A series of short-term technical measures have been taken to restore confidence in the aircraft's electrical system. Longer-term modifications will further improve its integrity and survivability.

### **Claims**

4. Claims to the value of some DM 12,500 have been settled so far in respect of damage caused by this accident.