



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summary

PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE

HERCULES CMK3 XV193

Date:	27 May 1993
Parent Airfield:	RAF Lyneham
Place of Accident:	Scottish Highlands
Crew:	Nine
Casualties:	Nine fatal

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On the afternoon of 27 May 1993, XV193 was one of three Hercules aircraft engaged in formation and low-level navigation training over Scotland. Having completed the formation element of the sortie, the three aircraft separated for individual exercises, which, for the crew of XV193, included a simulated drop of a small cargo pack onto a dummy drop zone in a valley, eight miles north of Pitlochry. Although there were no witnesses during about the last four nautical miles of the flight, the Board of Inquiry postulated that having completed the simulated drop exercises and turned north to begin their egress from the drop zone, a rocky outcrop forced the crew to continue the left turn. The Board concluded that having avoided this obstacle, the crew elected to reverse their turn to enter the narrow valley of Glen Loch and regain the original route. In performing this manoeuvre, at low-level and low-speed, the aircraft stalled and crashed. The aircraft sustained substantial damage on impact, and was immediately engulfed in fire. All nine personnel on board died.

CAUSE

2. There were no eyewitnesses to the final moments of the flight, and the aircraft was not fitted with an Accident Data Recorder or Cockpit Voice Recorder. The Board of Inquiry's investigation therefore remains conjecture; notwithstanding that specialist advice from various sources, including the Air Accident Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport and the aircraft manufacturer supports their findings.

3. The investigation found that the cause of the accident was consistent with the aircraft having stalled at an altitude from which recovery was impossible.

SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

4. Operating procedures and training requirements have been reviewed, and revised where applicable, to minimize the risks involved in flying at low level in hilly terrain.

CLAIMS

5. To date, claims totalling £3,437.20p have been settled in respect of this accident.