



## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### Military Aircraft Accident Summary

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Aircraft:	Meteor Mk7 WA669 and Vampire T11 XH304
Date of accident:	25 May 1986
Parent Airfield:	RAF Scampton
Place of accident:	RAF Mildenhall
Crew:	Four
Casualties:	2 Fatal and 2 Major

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#### Circumstances

1. On 25 May 1986, the Vintage Pair Display Team were engaged in an air display which was to include the Meteor leading the Vampire in a formation line-astern barrel roll to the left. The display went well until the aircraft reached the top of the formation barrel roll when the Vampire was unable to match the Meteor's rate of roll and became displaced down, left and slightly back from the line-astern position. The Vampire then moved forward, passed underneath the Meteor, and climbed turning slightly to the right. The Vampire's starboard rudder, fin and elevator struck the Meteor's port engine nacelle nosing which separated from the aircraft and fell clear. The Vampire's starboard rudder detached and fell clear.

2. After the collision, the Vampire pitched up and the 2 crew ejected successfully. The Meteor, which was not fitted with ejection seats, struck the ground shortly after the mid-air collision and the 2 crew were killed. Both aircraft were destroyed.

#### Cause

3. The investigation established that, although the Meteor pilot's flying of the barrel roll may have made maintaining formation difficult, the Vampire pilot could have avoided the subsequent collision by turning away to the left. Appropriate action has been taken in respect of the Vampire pilot.

#### Claims

4. Claims totalling £2530 have been paid for crop damage as a result of this accident.