



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

1/87

9 February 1987

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE JET PROVOSTS T5A XW407 and XW411

Date: 6 June 1986
Parent Airfield: RAF Church Fenton, North Yorkshire
Place of Accident: North York Moors
Crew: Three
Casualties: Two major injuries and one minor injury

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On 6 June 1986, a pair of Jet Provost aircraft were engaged in a tail chase, an exercise in which one aircraft follows the other through a series of manoeuvres at a safe distance. For approximately 5 minutes the second aircraft maintained position, with normal variations in range and lateral displacement, until the leader pulled up into a wing-over to the left. During the wing-over the leader lowered flap, tightened the turn and, on rolling wings level in the descent, looked behind unsuccessfully for the No 2 aircraft. After some 3 seconds he looked ahead and saw it head-on at a range of 200-300 metres. At the start of the wing-over the No 2 had been laterally displaced in the leader's 8 o'clock position - and saw the leader fly a tight wing-over to the left, ending up head-on at close range. Their attempts at

avoiding one another were unsuccessful and the leader's aircraft passed over the No 2 aircraft, striking the rear fuselage and shearing off its entire tail assembly. Both aircraft descended out of control and the 3 occupants ejected successfully. Both aircrafts were destroyed.

CAUSE

2. The investigation established that, notwithstanding the nature of the final manoeuvre, both pilots erred in that they failed to take timely or correct avoiding action. Appropriate action was taken against both pilots.

CLAIMS

3. Two claims were received and have been settled, one for trees damaged in the crash, the other for crops damaged during salvage of the wreckage.

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