



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

3/87

13 March 1987

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE HARRIER GR3 XW 916

Date: 17 June 1986
Parent Airfield: RAF Gutersloh, West Germany
Place of accident: RNAS Yeovilton
Crew: One
Casualties: One, minor injury

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. On the 17 June 1986 a small detachment of Harrier aircraft from Gutersloh were operating in the UK for the day. Four aircraft took off from Wittering for a low-level sortie but after transitting at medium level to the Yeovilton area found the weather to be unsuitable for low flying. As an alternative exercise the leader split the formation into pairs for practice diversions to RNAS Yeovilton. During the descent for a ground controlled approach the leader's aircraft had an electrical failure and he decided to land at Yeovilton. He saw the runway at 3 miles on the final approach. During the final phase of landing he attempted to increase engine power to adjust the aircraft's angle of attack but as he advanced the throttle the engine note decreased, he felt a marked loss of thrust and the nose of the aircraft dropped. Immediately he slammed the throttle for maximum power but the engine did not respond, so he ejected. The aircraft crashed 2 seconds later and was destroyed.