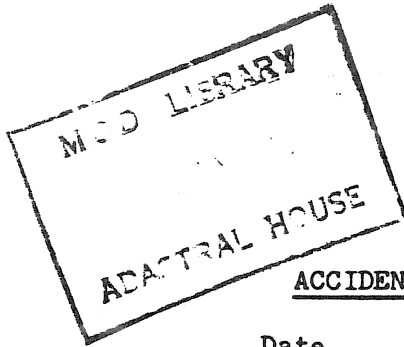




# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## Military Aircraft Accident Summaries



MAAS 2/86

4 January 1986

### ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE TORNADO GR1 ZA603

Date : 8 November 1984  
Parent Airfield : RAF Marham  
Place of Accident : 13 km south of Schweinfurt,  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Crew : Two  
Casualties : One major injury

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Tornado ZA603 was detached to RAF Laarbruch in West Germany when, on the morning of 8 November 1984, it took off as the lead aircraft of a pair for a low level training sortie in southern Germany.
2. The sortie proceeded normally until the 2 aircraft were travelling towards the second target when the pilot saw a USAF A-10 on a collision course immediately ahead of his aircraft. He pulled up suddenly and banked the aircraft to the left to avoid the A-10. The navigator, who had been looking down into the cockpit to study the Projected Map Display, was forced down by the acceleration (g force) into an unfamiliar position. He looked out to the left and saw the ground but no horizon. Sensing that the aircraft was rolling rapidly to the left and descending, and believing the aircraft to be out of control and about to crash, he ejected. Tornado ZA603 had the facility for command ejection selected to 'Both'. As a result, the pilot was automatically ejected as soon

as the navigator had left the aircraft. Both ejections were successful.

The aircraft crashed in open countryside.

#### CAUSE

3. Examination of the Accident Data Recorder read-out revealed that the aircraft had been serviceable up to the moment when the crew ejected. It was apparent that the navigator's head down posture at the beginning of the manoeuvre, and the force to which he had been subjected had resulted in him becoming disorientated to such an extent that he thought the aircraft was rolling rapidly to the left and descending. As a result, he had considered that the aircraft was about to crash and so had seen his only option as ejection. Appropriate action has been taken.

#### SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

4. New procedures for the setting of the Command Ejection Lever in Tornado have been introduced.

#### CLAIMS

5. Six claims were received as a result of the accident. Five have been settled but the sixth has yet to be paid. The total cost of the claims is DM 6647 (approximately £1777).

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