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ASN Wikibase Occurrence # 21362

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Date: 28-JUL-1954
Time: day



Type: [Gloster Meteor T Mk 7](#)
Owner/operator: CFS Royal Air Force (CFS RAF)
Registration: WL374
MSN:
Fatalities: Fatalities: 2 / Occupants: 2
Other fatalities: 2
Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)
Location: Lower Heyford, 2 miles south of RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire -  [United Kingdom](#)
Phase: Manoeuvring (airshow, firefighting, ag.ops.)
Nature: Military
Departure airport: RAF Little Rissington, Gloucestershire
Destination airport: RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire
Confidence Rating: Information is only available from news, social media or unofficial sources

Narrative:

Gloster Meteor T.Mk.7 WL374: Notified as awaiting collection 4/6/52, delivered 10/6/52. Operational service was with the CFS (Central Flying School), RAF only.

Written off (destroyed) 28/7/54: WL374 was one of two Meteors of the CFS flying in close formation at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet (the other Meteor was WL457) when the two aircraft were involved in a mid air collision during a formation change. Neither crew was able to escape, and both crews (two in each aircraft) were killed when the Meteors crashed two miles south of RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire

Crew of Meteor WL374:

Flight Lieutenant Charles Harris Lazenby RAF (QFI Instructor Pilot, Service Number 66589 aged 32)
Flight Lieutenant Ronald Bennett RAF (Pilot, Service Number 163439, aged 30)

Both crew members were buried at St Peter Churchyard, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire.

Sources:

1. Halley, James (1999) Broken Wings - Post-War Royal Air Force Accidents Tunbridge Wells: Air-Britain (Historians) Ltd. p.161 ISBN 0-85130-290-4.
2. Royal Air Force Aircraft WA100-WZ999 (James J Halley, Air Britain, 1985 p.73)
3. Category Five; A Catalogue of RAF Aircraft Losses 1954 to 2009 by Colin Cummings p.77
4. RAF Little Rissington: The Central Flying School 1946 - 76 p.313 By R. Deacon, A. Pollock, M. Thomas, R. Bagshaw
5. <https://www.militaryimages.net/media/charles-harris-lazenby.140274/>
6. <https://www.militaryimages.net/media/ronald-bennett.140277/>
7. <http://www.ukserials.com/results.php?serial=WL>

Revision history:

| Date/time | Contributor | Updates |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 20-Jun-2008 09:26 | JINX | Added |
| 12-May-2015 17:33 | BIB | Updated [Aircraft type, Operator, Location] |
| 17-Apr-2020 00:03 | Dr. John Smith | Updated [Time, Operator, Location, Phase, Departure airport, Destination airport, Source, Narrative] |
| 17-Apr-2020 10:21 | BIB | Updated [Aircraft type, Operator, Location, Departure airport, Operator] |
| 18-Apr-2020 18:00 | Dr. John Smith | Updated [Location, Source] |

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ASN Wikibase Occurrence # 235120

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Date: 28-JUL-1954
Time: day



Type: [Gloster Meteor T Mk 7](#)
Owner/operator: CFS Royal Air Force (CFS RAF)
Registration: WL457
MSN:
Fatalities: Fatalities: 2 / Occupants: 2
Other fatalities: 2
Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)
Location: Lower Heyford, 2 miles south of RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire -  [United Kingdom](#)
Phase: Manoeuvring (airshow, firefighting, ag.ops.)
Nature: Training
Departure airport: RAF Little Rissington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Destination airport: RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire
Confidence Rating: Information is only available from news, social media or unofficial sources

Narrative:

Gloster Meteor T.Mk.7 WL457: Notified as awaiting collection 11/8/52, delivered 15/9/52. Operational service was with 211 AFS, and the CFS (Central Flying School), RAF.

Written off (destroyed) 28/7/54: WL457 was one of two Meteors of the CFS flying in close formation at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet (the other Meteor was WL374) when the two aircraft were involved in a mid air collision during a formation change. Neither crew was able to escape, and both crews (two in each aircraft) were killed when the Meteors crashed two miles south of RAF Upper Heyford, at Lower Heyford, Cherwell District, Oxfordshire

Crew of Meteor WL457:

Flight Lieutenant John Rowland Douche DFC, RAF (QFI Instructor Pilot, Service Number 59230, aged

28)

Flight Lieutenant Brian Geoffrey Rendle RAF (Pilot, Service Number 607025, aged 26)

Flight Lieutenant Randle was buried at St Peter Churchyard, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire (along with both crew members of Meteor WL374). Flight Lieutenant Douche was buried at Newmarket Town Cemetery, Newmarket, Forest Heath District, Suffolk.

Sources:

1. Halley, James (1999) Broken Wings - Post-War Royal Air Force Accidents Tunbridge Wells: Air-Britain (Historians) Ltd. p.161 ISBN 0-85130-290-4.
2. Royal Air Force Aircraft WA100-WZ999 (James J Halley, Air Britain, 1985 p.73)
3. Category Five; A Catalogue of RAF Aircraft Losses 1954 to 2009 by Colin Cummings p.77
4. RAF Little Rissington: The Central Flying School 1946 - 76 p.313 By R. Deacon, A. Pollock, M. Thomas, R. Bagshaw
5. <https://www.militaryimages.net/media/brian-geoffrey-rendle.140273/>
6. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183568199/john-roland-douche>
7. <http://www.ukserials.com/results.php?serial=WL>

Revision history:

| Date/time | Contributor | Updates |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 17-Apr-2020 00:42 | Dr. John Smith | Added |
| 17-Apr-2020 10:22 | BIB | Updated [Operator, Location, Nature, Operator] |
| 18-Apr-2020 17:58 | Dr. John Smith | Updated [Other fatalities, Source] |

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