

Probe as mystery jets buzz airliner

Press 5 Nov 80
Western Daily

PR

Western Daily Press Reporter

TWIN investigations were launched yesterday into claims that a passenger airliner was "buzzed" by military jets flying at up to 500mph.

And as the Civil Aviation Authority and RAF investigations began, Yorkshire MP Mr Bob Cryer called for an immediate ban on low flying by the RAF until the results were known.

The drama happened over Keighley, West Yorkshire on Monday evening when two military jets were reported to have flashed past an inter-city turbo-prop airliner within 200 ft.

'GOD FORBID'

The airline pilot later officially reported his aircraft was at risk, and filed an official "air-miss".

Captain Tony Leach, a chief pilot with Dan Air, thought the fighters were RAF Jaguars.

They flashed past from behind at about 5,000 feet, one overhead and the other at the same level.

Captain Leach was flying 35 passengers, mostly businessmen, from the Leeds and Bradford airport to Glasgow in a 48-seater Hawker Siddeley 748.

The passengers didn't realise anything was wrong. The jets were passed in the blink of an eye, said a Dan Air spokesman.

An RAF spokesman said: "We are investigating but at the moment it is a mystery.

"We can't even find the aircraft. All our Jaguars were tucked up at the time. They could have been test Jaguars, American or even NATO aircraft. God forbid a foreign power."