

No: 3/88

AIRMISS

Ref: 1a

Aircraft type and registration: Lockheed L-1011 G-BBAH/Tupolev 154 LZ-BTE

No & Type of engines: 3 Rolls Royce RB 211 turbofan engines/3 Kuznetsov NK-8 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: Not applicable

Date and time (UTC): 6 February 1988 at 1138.30 hrs

Location: 18 nm South of Lydd VOR

Type of flight: Public transport/Public transport

Persons on board: Crew — 16/6 Passengers — 337/156

Injuries: Crew — None/None Passengers — None/None

Nature of damage: Nil

Commander's Licence: Not applicable

Commander's Age: Not applicable

Commander's Total Flying Experience: Not applicable

Information Source: AAIB Inspector's Investigation

At 1135 hrs on 6 February 1988 a British Airways Tristar Flight BAW 305 on a flight from Paris to London Heathrow was approaching the Lydd VOR. At the same time Balkan Bulgarian Airlines Tupolev 154 Flight LAZ 967 was leaving the Lydd VOR holding pattern to commence descent for London Gatwick. There had been a significant build up in traffic due to the temporary closure of runway 26L at Gatwick — between 1056 and 1115 hrs — and the closure of runway 27L at Heathrow at 1125 hrs. As a result there was a complex and unusual traffic situation and inbound aircraft were being held at Eastwood and Lydd. As the Tristar was descending to FL 180, on a radar heading towards Biggin, an airmis occurred with the Tupolev which was also at FL 180 turning onto a radar heading for positioning at Eastwood. Both aircraft were being flown in accordance with their clearances. The BA Tristar saw the Tupolev and visually manoeuvred to avoid a collision.

After considering a request from the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority the Chief Inspector of Accidents ordered an Inspector's Investigation into the circumstances of this airmis. Representatives of the Bulgarian State Aeronautical Inspectorate are participating in the investigation.