



PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Target towing

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

Stbd. lower mainplane improperly locked in flying position. Lower mainplane separated from wing root in a climbing turn after take-off. Increased incidence of lower stbd. mainplane caused a/c to fly left wing low. Pilot made safe landing.

CLASSIFICATION:

~~57. Miscellaneous~~  
OTHERS.

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SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

~~57. Carelessness~~

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Stbd. lower front mainplane lug (locking lug) was not secured by the latch pin when mainplanes were opened & supposedly secured in flying position. No evidence of structural failure or locking devices or fittings.

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 2054

Stbd. wing not properly locked open (lower pin probably fouled) hence when a strain was put on the wing it commenced to come apart.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That an Appendix to L.14 for Shark A/C be instituted under heading of "Wings locked unfolded" to be signed by person carrying this out.

Also that an N.C.O. or Airman be placed in charged of all beaching and launching parties, a record be kept of the personnel comprising these parties, and the Airman in charge be responsible, and to personally check all operation such as proper seating of latch pins.

ACTION TAKEN: