

PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Local patrol section of 2 a/c.

Nil

1100/1791/-/12

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

Flew into fog bank at 500' followed by #2 of patrol section who observed a/c to dive steeply into sea while turning at low level.

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 2049

Flying formation at about six hundred feet we flew into a cloud bank. We continued in the cloud for about two minutes at which time we did a steep turn to port so I went into fairly close line astern. Campbell noticed that in order to follow P/O Bell my a/c was in various positions ending in a spiral dive. As I pulled out of the dive saw P/O Bell about 200 ft. ahead and above me and apparently flying straight and level. He then appeared to do a half roll and dive almost vertically into the water.

CLASSIFICATION:

~~19. Out of control~~
~~21. Inability to maintain equilibrium.~~

19

CAUSE:

Unable to maintain control of his A/C on instruments.

CONCLUSIONS OF A.I.B.

Agree with findings.
P/O Bell may be presumed dead.

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

ACTION TAKEN:

Nil

18. Loss of control
47. Weather.