



PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Routine Gunnery Exercise.

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

A/C proceeded to take off and on becoming airborne fuel leak developed spraying inside of a/c with fuel, which caught fire. Pilot was forced to land downwind with wheels up. Pilot had pulled fire extinguisher but fire spread and a/c burned out.

CLASSIFICATION:

16

~~27. Fire in the air~~

16. Other

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

~~33. Technical Defect~~

28. Fire - in air 28

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Due to leaking tank, fuel was forced along lower front edge of the rear spar and when A/C banked to left fuel flowed back along this channel, where it was ignited by exhaust from the port engine.

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

Due to fire in the air. Fire was due to a leaking port inner fuel tank that became ignited by the exhaust from the port engine.

Note: Approx. six fuel tanks have been changed at the unit during the past few months due to cracks at the baffle securing bolts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bolingbroke fuel tank repair scheme, as authorized in CAP 78, Vol. II, Leaflet RL/7/5 dated 31-7-43 be changed to an ATEO to be embodied on all Bolingbrokes

*OP M/EF/104/24/0/000/0*

SUMMARY No. 143

ACTION TAKEN:

N.A.