

ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION

UNIT 10 B.G.S.		COM. 3	PLACE 3 miles S. of M.A.		DATE 31-12-43	TIME 1415			
A/C TYPE BATTLE I		No. 2057	CRASH CAT. "A"		H.Q. FILE 1700-2057	S.E. X	M.E. 	DAY X	NIGHT
PERSONNEL		RANK	NUMBER	DUTY	INJURIES		SIGNAL		
Pearson, W.J.		SGT	R161142	P	Killed		No.	DATE	
Scanlon, D.M.		A02	R266515	DO	Killed		M650	31-12	
Huntula, H.W.		AC2	R268508	Pass	Killed		D 14 (REVISED)		
							No.	CHECKED	
							# 1		
							# 6		
ENGINE		ENGINE NUMBER (S)		HOURS FLOWN BY PILOTS					
Merlin V		8513/4015 Totally		INST.	NIGHT	ON TYPE		TOTAL	
						SOLO	DUAL	SOLO	DUAL
						3	203	319	109

ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION

TYPE OF A/C

TYPE OF UNIT

CATEGORY

COMMAND

MONTH

STAGE OF FLIGHT

FORCED LANDING
TAXIING
LANDING
TAKE-OFF
FLIGHT
STATARY
FATAL
INJURY

INJURY

RAF

PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Routine drogue towing flight.

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

Two drogues were hung up on drogue hook, a third streamed which hung up on drogue back. A/C flew 3 miles with drogues streaming, when according to witnesses to start a turn and then dive straight into the ground.

CLASSIFICATION:

57. ~~Miscellaneous.~~

19. Out of Control

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

33. ~~Technical defect.~~

26.

To Engine Trouble - Accident

R. C. A. F. L 20 (REVISED)
7M-4-43 (3202) K. P. 5051
H. Q. 885-L 20

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Nil

100/700/400M

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 163

CONCLUSIONS

Accident was result of engine failure coupled with added drag of three drogues hung up behind a/c, this latter feature having so rapidly cut down and seriously reduced airspeed as to cause a complete stall before pilot could take action. Engine failure due to failure of oil supply, cause of which could not be determined due to excessive damage resulting from crash. Pilot was aware of engine trouble but was unable to get rid of drogues which were seriously affecting his control of a/c. This was due to lack of proper intercommunication equipment in a/c. Hang-up of drogue to deficiencies in manufacture of the rings used in securing drogues to the cable and in finish of the fish.

ACTION TAKEN:

Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

Intercommunication equipment be provided for Target towing a/c with a minimum of delay.