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DUTY ON WHICH ENGAGED:

PATROL FLIGHT.

NATURE OF ACCIDENT AND STAGE OF FLIGHT:

POOR VISIBILITY PRECLUDED LANDING AT DARTMOUTH OR MONCTON AND AIRCRAFT ORDERED TO PROCEED TO MONTREAL. FUEL SUPPLY EXHAUSTED AND AIRCRAFT ABANDONED IN MID-AIR. RADIO COMPASS WAS NOT FUNCTIONING AND RADIO COMMUNICATION WAS POOR. THE FUEL SUPPLY WAS EXHAUSTED AFTER 12 HRS. IN AIR, DUE TO IMPROPER ADJUSTMENT OF ENGINE CONTROLS. CREW BAILED OUT WITH F/L CLAY AND F/O RICHARDSON ON ONE PARACHUTE. BENOIT, JOHNSON AND F/O LEBLANC WERE FOUND BUT CLAY, RICHARDSON PRIMARY CAUSE, AND HOWARD PRESUMED DEAD.

THE CREW OF DIGBY 749 WAS FACED THROUGH A COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A SITUATION WITH WHICH THEY WERE UNABLE TO COPE DUE TO INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE. AS A RESULT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ABANDONED IN FLIGHT, BECAUSE OF IMMINENT EXHAUSTION OF FUEL.

SECONDARY CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

COURT OF INQUIRY, INVESTIGATING OFFICER

OR COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT:

COURT OF INQUIRY.

DATE:

28-11-40 TO 7-1-41.

COMPOSITION:

WING COMMANDER R.E. MCBURNEY

PRESIDENT

WING COMMANDER H.R. CAREFOOT

MEMBER

SQUADRON LEADER C.L. ANNIS

MEMBER

RECOMMENDATIONS:

POSTING OF MORE EXPERIENCED PILOTS TO NO. 10 BR SQUADRON. SYLLABUS OF TRAINING TO BE REVIEWED FOR PILOTS UNDER INSTRUCTION. PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO BE PAID TO THE DETAILS OF ENGINE OPERATION UNDER ALL CONDITIONS OF FLIGHT. PROVISION OF RADIO AND OTHER LANDING AIDS AT R.C.A.F. AERODROMES. THAT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE IN KIT FORM PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO PARACHUTES AND THAT PARACHUTES BE COLOURED IN TWO PARTS. AIRCRAFT CREW SHOULD BE HELD INTACT AND TRAINED AS A UNIT.

ACTION TAKEN:

(A) DISCIPLINARY (B) TECHNICAL (C) OTHER

THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS PUT INTO EFFECT TOGETHER WITH A NOTE TO THE AOC EAC PERMITTING PILOTS OF HIS COMMAND TO READ THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS ACCIDENT SO THAT THEY MAY BENEFIT BY THE LESSON IT TEACHES.

APPROVED BY C.A.S.

28-2-41

FEDS  
IM/P/ET/PS/PH/I/AA  
WVB

RECORDED BY

DATE

CHECKED BY

DATE