



PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Maintenance work. - D. Inspections.

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

Explosion in hull. Commencing Daily Inspection, crew noticed strong aroma of gasoline fumes proceeded to ventilate a/c. Shortly after, explosion occurred. Disaster was averted by prompt action of hangar crew. F/S Clark, M.R. showed great disregard for personal safety when he approached flaming a/c to rescue Sgt. Patton.

CLASSIFICATION:

57. Miscellaneous

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

33. Technical Defect

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

No reason could be found for ignition of gasoline fumes other than nails protruding from heels of Cpl. Godbouts boots. Assumed they came in contact with steel bolts in keel.

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 144

This accident caused by igniting of gasoline fumes presumably by spark produced when nails in boots of Cpl. Godbout came in contact with steel bolts in keel. Presence of gasoline in hull due to sticking needle valve in A.P. unit carburettor. Cause of sticking due to grit and swarf in fuel system.

Recommendations

See Report No. 144 re A.P.U. fuel system, fire prevention and fitting of main selector cocks.

Conclusions of A.I.B.

This is the second Canso destroyed by fire through leaking gasoline system. The other occurred at Millenocket Airport on 13th July, 1943.

ACTION TAKEN: