



PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Flying practice.

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

*18A/P/FMS*

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

A/C was manoeuvred into dive at 200 MPH.

Plywood on port wing tore off. Port

wing broke off inboard of engine and

A/C went into fast spin and disintegrated.

Gilbert was thrown clear and managed to

make parachute descent. Leader did not

get out and was killed.

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 2028

Overstressing of aeroplane structure followed by structural failure of port wing spar.

CONCLUSIONS OF A.I.B.

Due to structural failure of centre section spars during recovery from a high speed dive.

Note:

Bolts securing U/C and engine mount fittings to spar were checked for tightness on a number of Oxford at this unit. In every case they were found to be very loose, and in some cases bolt could be turned in its hole with two fingers in a short spanner. There were no signs that the nuts had slackened off, indicating that it was possible that the wood in the spars had shrunk.

CLASSIFICATION:

~~28. Structural failure.~~

*18. Misc. Technical*

*18*

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

~~16. Unauthorized low flying or~~

~~aerobatics.~~

*42. Unauthorized Low Flying.*

ACTION TAKEN: