



PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

Dawn patrol.

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

NIL FS/REP/LS 1944

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

Pilot Officer Ness was leading the dawn patrol when his a/c started to lose power. Called over radio that he was going to ditch. He ditched a/c and got out but did not get into dinghy. He was dead when picked up by Navy boat.

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 2322

CAUSE: Obscure.

CONCLUSION OF C.I.R.: A/c. NOTE 1. This accident was the result of a stall at low altitude.

Squadron on the previous day, 7th Feb./44. The latter a/c was also ditched but pilot suffered only slight injuries and was rescued. Cause of accident was considered to be obscure but it was thought probable that pilot had stalled aircraft at low altitude. NOTE 1: Following these two accidents all a/c of Squadron were grounded and inspected under supervision of Squadron Engineer Officer who stated that "nothing was found on inspection of any of the a/c which would in any way affect flying characteristics of a/c or the running of the engine".

CLASSIFICATION:

~~99. Obscure.~~

23 Not known

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

ACTION TAKEN:

NIL