

COPY

ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY

Ottawa January 11, 1962

No. 3.

Sir,

On the 29th of August last a DHC-3 (Otter) aircraft (CF-WEX) operated by Eastern Provincial Airways departed from the airport at Søndrestrøm, Greenland for a flight to the station Egedesminde further north. The pilot was the Canadian citizen James Anthony Roe with Harris G. Robinson as a crewman. Passengers were Knud Rasmussen, Manager of the hotel at Søndrestrøm, Henning Dyrse, Station Manager for Scandinavian Airlines System, Daniel B. Catlin, 1st Lieutenant United States Air Force and Earl P. Frank, Staff Sergeant United States Air Force.

About 10 minutes after take-off at an altitude of approximately 3000 feet the pilot noted a drop in fuel pressure. The fuel booster pump was turned on and a strong smell of gasoline was noted in the cockpit. The smell of smoke became evident and this was followed almost immediately by flames coming through openings in the floor.

Pilot Roe shut down the engine and operated the engine fire extinguisher. He executed a rapid descent during which he was being burned about the legs and the right hand. During the latter stages of the descent he apparently flew from a position partially outside the aircraft as flames and smoke reduced visibility.

The Honourable Howard C. Green,
P.C., Q.C., etc.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Department of External Affairs,
O t t a w a, Ont.