

C O P Y

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Sept. 14, 1950

Arnold A. Flieler
Cloyne, Ontario.

Dept. of Transport
260 Richmond St.W.
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

I have written this letter to explain all the details of the fire.

I went alone into Merril Lake, on a fishing trip, which is between Genter and Cloyne. I was supposed to have a party of three fishermen to take in on the 20th of September. Since I had not taken anyone in to this lake before I went in mainly to look the Lake over for rock bars, and possibility of taking off with a load.

In beaching the aircraft I broke a hole in the right float on a small rock. As I had had the aircraft overturned on Buckshot Lake because of a hole in the floats, I proceeded to repair the float. Since my trouble on Buckshot Lake I had carried material and equipment to repair a float as I often go in to these lakes in the wilderness. I had the float off and had dragged it some distance from the aircraft. I had it all ready to patch with the patches out and glue made and was standing with my maps trying to locate Genter on it as the fishermen were having their supplies brought in from Genter on Sept. 20 by horse and wagon. I had built a fire near the float to dry out the damaged spot so that the glue would stick and believed the wind to be in the right direction. I was studying the map when I noticed the plane all aflame at the centre section. The doorway was all a mass of flame so I had no chance to get to the fire extinguisher. I had five gallons of gas in the plane cans so I was not able to put fire out until it had burned for some time and had gone down enough so that I could get near it. One can drifted to shore and I cut top out of it and finally got all the fire out. I waited for nearly an hour to watch for bush fires and started out toward Genter believing that it to be the closest way.

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