



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

717 Dominion Public Bldg.,  
Winnipeg, Man., July 5, 1946.

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6-44

YOUR FILE	SUBJECT	OUR FILE
	Accident - DH 82 Tiger Moth CF-DGL	5008-D7-12
	WHITEHEAD, Clarence E.	5802-154-13
	MCCLAIN, Ernest Arthur	5802-93-8

District Inspector, Air Regulations.

1. On the afternoon of May 20, 1946, the two above noted pilots were interviewed at Deer Lodge Hospital concerning the accident that occurred to DH 82 Tiger Moth CF-DGL on the afternoon of April 29, 1946, north of the Winnipeg Airport and Between Rosser, Man. and Stony Mountain, Man. Permission was obtained from the Superintendent of the Hospital to interview Messrs Whitehead and McClain in the ward, and I was advised that it was not much use questioning McClain as he was suffering from loss of memory.

2. I proceeded to the ward and found both patients sitting up in wheel chairs. Pilot McClain could tell me nothing and, after a few minutes of simple questioning with no satisfactory results, I proceeded to question pilot Whitehead, and the following is submitted. At shortly after 1500 hours, on April 29, 1946, pilot Whitehead, in company with pilot McClain, took Tiger Moth CF-DGL on a flight, Whitehead occupying the front seat and McClain the rear. Whitehead took the aircraft off and headed north. After ten minutes or so, and at 2800 feet above terrain, Whitehead handed over the controls to McClain, who continued climbing the aircraft to 3000 feet (above terrain). McClain then put the aircraft into a dive and executed a loop; coming out of the loop at 2800 feet he executed a second loop. As the aircraft came out of the ensuing dive, it shuddered (apparently contacting its own slipstream), and then went into a violent nose dive. Whitehead was lifted clear of his seat and forced up into the coupe top, hard on the harness straps. He made a violent effort and got back on his seat, then, realizing that the aircraft