100% pilot error

NUMBER- - - -A-6423 26 February 1926.

TYPE-- - - --DT-4

B. Judgment

CAUSE- - - --Rough, small wet field. Board is unable to state whether pilot used poor judgment or not in attempting to take off from small field as no member of board has seen the emergency field used. Board considers that pilot made a careful inspection of field and his judgment should be accepted.

Take off appeared normal for about half length of field when pilot slowed up due to tall grass and presence of soft spots. He made effort to pull plane from ground but wheels did not clear fince. 1 wheel was knocked off and the plane was thrown to left towards several trees. He could not go much to right due to a hill, church and grave yard. With just flying speed and about twenty-five ft. from ground the left wing hit a tree, completely wiping it off and plane crashed.

PLACE- - - -Hampton Roads, Va.

PLANE ATTACHED---Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, Va.

PERSONNEL IN PLANE- -Pilot - Lt. (b) (6) [redacted] USN.

PILOT'S FLYING TIME- -Seaplanes - 600 landplanes - 235 hrs.
DT's (landplanes) 35 hrs. (OVER)

INJURY TO PERSONNEL- - -Pilot received minor cut on nose.

INJURY TO MATERIAL- -Fuselage of plane broken, right wing badly damaged, but motor appeared unharmed.
Engine and salvaged material were shipped to Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, Pa.

REMARKS- - - - -Strike plane from list.