

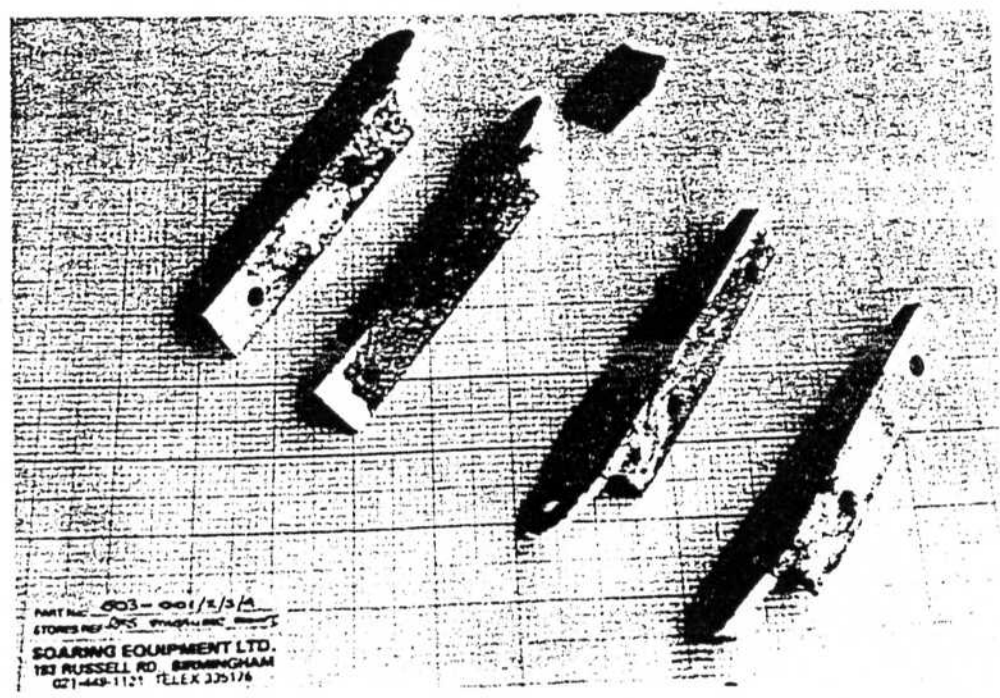
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2. SEVERE TAILPLANE MOUNT BRACKET CORROSION

Aircraft : Fournier RF5  
Date : February 1987

Severe layer type inter-crystalline corrosion was found on all four attachment brackets, one of which has been so badly affected as to reduce the web thickness of the alloy extrusion from 3mm to 1mm, with substantial pieces detached. The Part Nos are 503-001, 002, 003 and 004. It should be noted that only a part of the bracket can be seen even when the tailplane is removed and access must be gained to enable the extrusion within the tailplane to be checked. The worst corrosion is on the face in contact with the wood. The reporter strongly suggests that the parts be removed and inspected for corrosion, as a visual inspection without disassembly may not show the problem. Two similar cases have been reported previously and a Service Bulletin S-01-85 was sent to all RF5 owners on the UK Register in October 1986 by Soaring Equipment Limited.

The most recently found case was on a 4100 hour aircraft manufactured in 1970 which had flown 82 hours since its last annual inspection in April 1986.



CAA Comment:  
All owners should check for this serious fault. The tailplane attachment brackets on the RF4 and RF5B should be of steel and therefore not affected by this problem.