

Homes narrowly missed

PLANE BLOWS UP IN MAIN STREET

Two die in blazing wreckage

AN Avro Cadet plane screamed 50 feet over Melton last night, nose-dived into the centre of the town, and exploded.

Two Melbourne taxi-drivers on a pleasure flight in the plane were killed instantly.

In its crazy flight over the town the plane snapped off a flag pole and broke through street power lines.

It narrowly missed houses, came down on a street, and skidded 40 yards before the petrol tank blew up and sent flames and smoke 50 feet up.

The men killed—both drivers for Ambassador private hire service, city—were:

Clarence Lawrence McBean,
40, married, of Chestnut st,
Richmond pilot.

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Leslie Edward Sweeney, 43,
married, of the same address.

Intense heat

The plane took off from a

The plane took off from a paddock north of Melton, which is 23 miles north-west of Melbourne.

Townpeople saw immediately that it was in trouble.

Melton fire brigade rushed to the street immediately the plane

As soon as the wreckage touched the street immediately the plane crashed.

The intense heat prevented firemen from getting within fighting distance.

The plane wreckage burned for half an hour, and only a twisted hulk of fuselage and spars was left.

The bodies could not be removed until 9.30pm — three hours after the crash.

A witness of the take-off.

Arthur Pratt, of Melton, said:

"The plane seemed to be in good shape. It took off easily, circled, and headed for the township. A few minutes later I heard the crash, and saw clouds of smoke rising over the distant treetops."

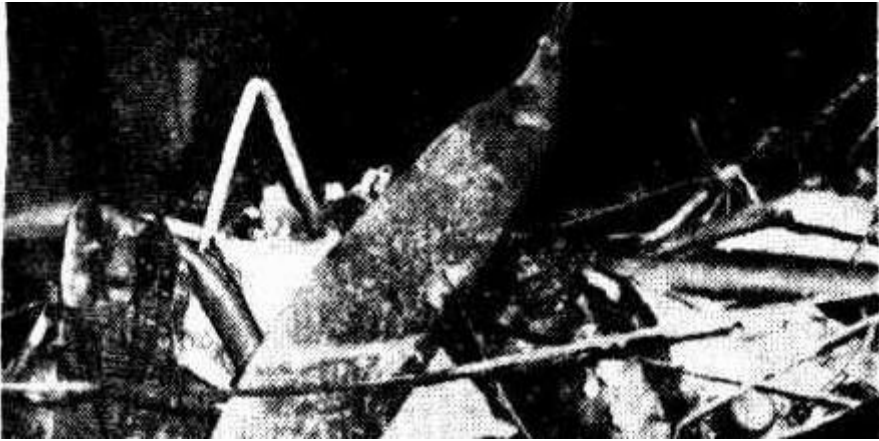
A witness of the crash, Mr A. Henderson, process worker, of Melton, said:

"I was sitting by my radio when I heard the plane low overhead. I rushed out in time to see it hit the power lines near the hotel on the Ballarat road. A shower of sparks went up. All our lights went out."

"Skimmed roofs"

"The Avro skimmed over my rooftop, snapped a flagpole on top of the Mechanics' Institute, and hit the dirt road. It skidded about 40 yards to a halt at an intersection about 100 yards from the main road. There was a terrific explosion as the plane's petrol tank blew up, and it became a roaring mass of flames."

Police say McBean had been flying the plane for four years. Sweeney, the passenger, was not able to fly a plane



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BURNT-OUT WRECKAGE of the Avro training plane which crashed last night at Melton, killing two Melbourne taxi-drivers.

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