

PLANE KILLS 5 CHILDREN AT AMBLE

Pilot avoids crash in town, but hits farm

ALL five children of Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson, of Cliff House Farm, near Amble, were killed when a plane crashed into the small farmhouse late on Wednesday night, after the pilot had struggled to save his plane from coming down in the town.

One member of the aircraft's crew survived.



MR. JAMES RUSSELL, Amblesham, who was sitting in Cliff House Farm when a plane crashed in the night, was one of the few who escaped the disaster.

The child victims were—
Sister, 10, Isabel (15), Margaret (15), William (15), and Sheila (11).
The children were sleeping in upstairs rooms at the time of the crash, while Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were entertaining Miss M. and Mrs. J. Russell, of Eleton, Amble, in a room on the ground floor.
The first adults escaped with only one shock, but the children were killed instantaneously.

FRENZIED SEARCH

The search was in the wreckage of the house, and while the parents and their friends were making a frenzied search for the children Mrs. Russell noticed an unseen hand near the door.

She called her husband, who ran across, called the young women on the ground, and collected the bodies. Then he rushed to the plane but could not find survivors.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, and the children were taken to hospital and given treatment. Only the women were damaged.

Mr. Robinson, who, with his wife, is sitting at a nearby farm, told a "Newcastle Journal" reporter: "I am surprised so easily that I know very little about it. One minute we were a happy little family, the next the place was a shambles."

"HOUSE CAME DOWN"

"While we were looking for the children the bodies of the children came along to help and they were closely followed by the rescue squads. I need not tell the intimate details of the scene."

Mr. Russell, who is a landowner in Amble, said he went to the Robinsons to tell some news. "My wife and I go to the Robinsons every Sunday night," he said. "But as I had this B.O.B. job to do, Mr. Robinson suggested that I take my wife along for supper."

"We had just finished the meal when there was a crash."

"I shouted 'Look out!' and we all threw ourselves on to the floor. The house collapsed above our heads and looking upward we saw the sky."

"Mrs. Robinson shouted 'Oh, my poor babies,' and tried to make her way towards the stairs, which had been blown away."

"CHAIRS SMASHED"

"Our first thoughts, naturally, were for the children."

"We pulled at our wreckage in an effort to find them. Then the bodies came and we had to throw water to keep down the flames."

The flames we had been sitting on were crushed, and the walls in that part of the house are not more than three feet high now."

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson would have been in bed upstairs if they had not been visited by the Russell.

Mr. Russell has received a message of thanks from the medical officer at the ambulance for saving the survivors' life.

The aircraft said that the pilot had been flying low, but the pilot managed to keep it in the air until it crashed the town. After that, however, he was unable to maintain control.



THE wreckage of Cliff House Farm near Amble, where five children were killed when a plane crashed into the house.

FIVE AMBLE CHILDREN KILLED

Plane Crashed On Farmhouse

PARENTS AND FRIENDS INJURED

FIVE children aged from one to 11 were killed in their beds in an upstairs room when an aircraft on Wednesday night crashed into Cliffe House, a small farmhouse near Amble. One of the crew was saved.

The children were Sylvia Robert, nine; Ethel, seven; Marjorie, five; William Matthews, three; and Sheila, one.

They were in bed at the time following a party and their father and mother and two friends, Mr and Mrs J. Howell of Pilsdon, Amble, were injured but not seriously.

The farmhouse is occupied by Mr William Roberts. The Robsons were holding a party at their home at the time.

AIKMAN'S RESCUE

The Gazette was told yesterday that a member of the aircraft crew saved his life by the prompt action of an Amble butcher, Mr James Bonnell, of Dilsdon Terrace, whose wife was among the injured.

Mr and Mrs Howell were among the guests having supper downstairs when the plane crashed into the house.

The machine at once took fire and almost speedily the house which was completely wrecked.

One of the guests dived to the burning plane, found the airman was still alive and ignoring the blazing wreckage and his own safety managed to extricate him from the machine.

The airman's clothes were on fire and he succeeded in extinguishing the flames by rolling him on the ground.

Units of the N.F.S. and members of the Civil Defence ser-

and debris began to fall among us. When I looked up again I could see the sky through the roof of the house. I heard explosions outside and I ran out to see the airman struggling across the field. His clothes were on fire and I helped him put the flames out.

Mr Bonnell said: "The plane came here the whole of the way up at the house and then crashed through the bedroom. One of the huge wheels finished up in the sitting room. The scene outside at the time as the fire was going was like daylight."

Air Raid Siren Test on Monday

PUBLIC air raid sirens will be tested at 8.45 a.m. on Monday throughout Northumberland, Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire.

The Raiders Passed signal will be sounded for one minute, then the Alert for one minute and finally the Raiders Passed signal again for one minute. The test will not be made in any district in which an actual Alert has been sounded during the preceding fortnight.

Vice were rushed to the scene and the dead and injured recovered by ambulance.

The injured were given treatment at a first aid post.

Mr Bonnell told The Alnwick Gazette yesterday, "My wife and I and Mr and Mrs Roberts were having supper at the time of the crash. The five children were asleep in bed upstairs. We heard the plane coming in low but did not think anything of that at the moment. We next heard the machine hit a tree nearby. I do not remember who exactly happened afterwards because it all took place so quickly, but I heard someone shout 'Lie down, kids.' We all dove for the floor and as we did so there was a terrific crash