

LINCOLN BURNT OUT IN NAIROBI

Mishap during night take-off

"STANDARD" STAFF REPORTER

ONE of the Lincoln bombers—flown to Kenya recently to intensify the air attacks on Mau Mau forest gangs—crashed early yesterday while taking off from the R.A.F. aerodrome at Eastleigh, Nairobi. The aircraft, which had been scheduled to make a routine trip to bring supplies from Aden, burst into flames and was destroyed.

The crew of six escaped a few minutes before the fire spread to the fuselage. Apart from cuts and bruises, none was injured.

Still smouldering

The R.A.F. emergency fire service and the Nairobi Fire Brigade fought the blaze for nearly three hours. The debris was still smouldering yesterday morning.

An official statement by the R.A.F. reports that the crash was the result of "a technical error." A court of inquiry, at which the Directorate of Civil Aviation will be represented, is to be held.

The bomber's crew consisted of Sgt. Keay (pilot), Flying Officer Pessers and Norton (navigators), Sgt. Summers (flight engineer), Sgt. Tutton (signaller) and Sgt. Hollingshead (gunner).

Eye-witnesses said the aircraft seemed to swing to starboard after travelling 300 to 400 yards along the runway. The undercarriage was sheared off and fire broke out in one of the engines. The machine, it is stated, was not airborne.

The R.A.F. fire tender checked the flames for two or three minutes while the crew clambered out.

Full tanks

The bomber petrol tanks were full for its long journey. Also on board was a quantity of small arms ammunition, which exploded as the flames enveloped the aircraft.

A dense cloud of smoke billowed from the blazing wreckage.

An airman stationed at Eastleigh said yesterday: "I was walking along the road leading from the hangars when I heard

the engines cut out. There was no noise, but after a few minutes I saw smoke and flames.

"I ran to the burning aircraft, but by this time the crew had got out.

"There was quite a bit of excitement when the ammunition started to blow up."

Write-off

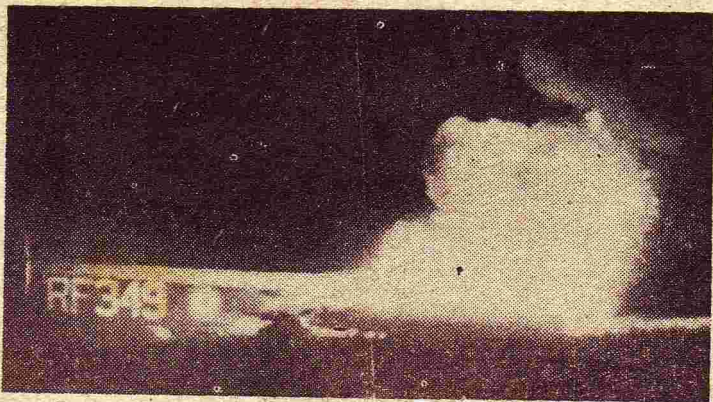
An official of the Directorate of Civil Aviation who was summoned to the aerodrome described the aircraft as "a complete write-off." He said the official inquiries would be conducted by the R.A.F. authorities, but that the Directorate would be represented at the court "to look after the interests of the Kenya Government."

Mr. Nehru hints at further steps over Goa

Mr. Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, has hinted that India might take "further steps" regarding Portuguese possessions in India:

India has already closed down her Legation in Lisbon because Portugal will not negotiate the transfer of any of her national territory in India—Goa, Damao and Diu.

Mr. Nehru told the Council of States (Upper House of Parliament) that India did not intend to take any "aggressive steps" against the territory itself. He said any action which might be taken would not be of a "dramatic type to be burst upon an astonished world." (Reuter)



The blazing bomber on the runway at Eastleigh.