

Stubton Aircraft Crash 1962

At 1.30pm on Friday 23rd March 1962 a Handley Page Victor V-Bomber being flown by a test pilot for low speed handling trials unfortunately entered a stall condition at 16,000 feet. The pilot issued a command to eject but only the pilot and co-pilot were able to do so, with a third crew member bailing out.

On the corner where the roads from Beckingham and Claypole join and turn towards Brandon, stood Home Farm the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Burt, members of the farming family known in this part of Lincolnshire as "Burts of Brandon". Mr. and Mrs. Burt were in their dining room, probably having just finished lunch, when, according to local information, they heard the noise of an aircraft nearby, followed by the clear sounds of the two ejector seats in operation. Providentially they were curious enough to go to the French Window to see what they could see, and were still looking out when some ninety tons of Victor aircraft landed on the house.



Mr. and Mrs. Burt were blown through the window and onto the lawn, sustaining a broken leg and burns respectively. Less fortunate were their housekeeper, Mrs. Annie Gibson, and nursemaid, Cecily Gibson, both of whom were in the farm kitchen. They died in the flattened heap of masonry and aircraft, together with aircrew Michael Evans and Peter Ellwood, neither of whom had been able to get out of the Victor in time.

Evidence of the aircraft's lack of forward speed came from the fact that both ejector seat buckets landed within 100 yards of the wrecked farmhouse. A thick pall of black smoke rose above the village as the Victor's fuel load and the combustible material in the house burned. The only recognisable remnant of the aircraft was its distinctive tail-plane.

Farm Foreman Mr John Scrimshire rushed to the aid of his employer, dragging him clear of the wreckage, and to safety, before the site was engulfed in flames. John was later awarded the 'British Empire Medal' for gallantry



Claypole Town Street and Main Street

