

This is all that's left of Aunt Louie's house

# PLANE CRASHES ON SLEEPING VILLAGE

## SEVENTEEN KILLED IN BLAZING COTTAGES

**S**EVENTEEN people were killed, including four of the crew, when an R.A.F. plane, believed to have been taking part in one of the biggest air exercises ever held over London, crashed in the little Buckinghamshire village of Winslow in the early hours of yesterday morning.

**Villagers trapped in their blazing cottages were burnt to death, and exploding ammunition from the plane menaced would-be rescuers who tried to dash across the street towards the flaming homesteads. When they succeeded in reaching them, the flames were so fierce that most of the occupants had to be left to their fate.**

The plane flew in low from open country and struck a tall walnut tree just off High-street. A wing was ripped off and crashed on to the roof of a butcher's shop, while the rest of the machine, out of control, skimmed some houses, demolished an inn—the Chandos Arms — and then ploughed through a row of cottages standing back from the road, coming to rest in a potato field.

Here the crumpled machine caught fire, and almost immediately flames also rose from the inn and adjoining houses.

Neighbours and others awakened by the crash were quickly on the scene, but those who ran to the plane found that three of the crew were already dead. Another died later in hospital.

### DRIVEN BACK BY FLAMES

Meanwhile, others had gone to the cottages and to the inn, where the fire was getting hold, but despite their efforts, together with those of the members of six fire brigades, the flames were so intense that it was impossible to enter, and hope for the occupants had to be abandoned.

The death roll includes the landlord of the public-house and the members of five families in the cottages, though it might have been higher but for several remarkable escapes.

- he victims were:—
- Thomas Cox, 54, landlord of the Chandos Arms;
  - Mrs. Lottie Hoberman, 41;
  - Israel Goldberg, 67; Mrs. Annie Goldberg, 66; and Victor Hoberman, 7, all evacuees from the East-end of London;
  - Tom Paintin, 53, and his son Donald, 18;
  - Stephen Mullis, 35, his wife, Doris May, 37, their son, Terence, 10, and daughter, Kathleen Susanne, three months;
  - William Hawkins, 58, and his wife, Nora, 58.

The noise of the crash and the glare of the flames gave an impression at first that the place had been bombed. Civil Defence services from Winslow, Buckingham, and Aylesbury were quickly on the scene, and their efforts probably were the means of saving other cottages.

uninjured in the home of his grandparents, although they were both killed.

Mr. Alfred Goodman, a member of a rescue party who concentrated on the house, said the boy was discovered under a heap of rubble, and seemed quite perky after his ordeal.

Mrs. Cox, the wife of the landlord of the inn, was sleeping in another room at the time it was hit, and escaped unhurt.

### ENGINE JUST MISSED HIM

One of the engines of the machine crashed through the roof of a cottage in which Mr. J. Sawyer, 80, was sleeping. He was thrown out of bed, and although the engine passed through into the kitchen, he was able to crawl from the ruins of his home uninjured.

Two girls, aged 11 and 13, the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Mullis, jumped to safety in the arms of Servicemen, and, after receiving attention, were given shelter by neighbours.

Mr. E. W. Camp, a shopkeeper, whose living quarters were damaged, said he was awakened by a terrific grinding noise, followed by a crash.

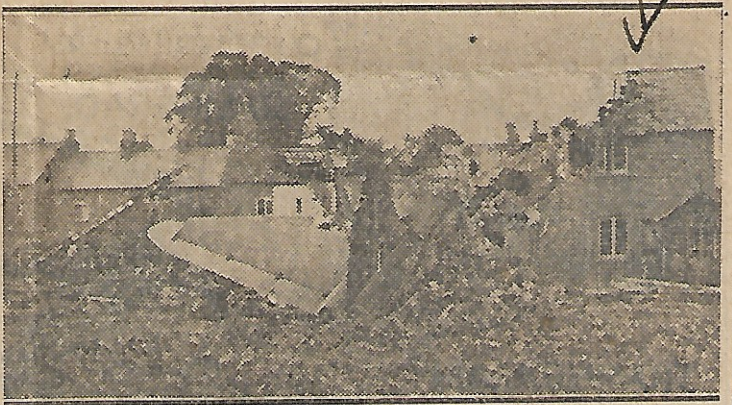
"I hurried downstairs. By that time the plane was burning, and I could not get outside at first because of exploding machine-gun bullets. Then I ran for help."

Mr. A. E. Illing, one of the fire chiefs, explained that roof tiles bursting because of the heat handicapped firemen in the early stages even more than machine-gun bullets.

### LONDONERS KEPT AWAKE

Large numbers of R.A.F. planes flew over London early yesterday in the big air exercise over the capital. The droning of the machines was continuous. Many searchlights were in action, including some with particularly powerful beams.

Many Londoners were awakened by the noise, and stood at their bedroom windows to watch the searchlight display. Night workers watched from the streets.



**TRAGEDY FALLS FROM THE SKY.**  
The wrecked R.A.F. plane which killed 17 people when it fell on the slumbering village of Winslow, Bucks, early yesterday morning. A row of cottages were set on fire.