

SYDNEY TO BRISBANE IN 87½ MIN.

TWO R.A.A.F. officers, flying in a standard Mosquito aircraft, yesterday set a new record for the Mascot (Sydney) to Archerfield flight.

They completed the 454 miles flight in 87½ minutes—less than the time it takes to travel from Albion to Ipswich by train.

This flight cut 12½ minutes off the previous record time between the two capitals, which had been set by a Mitchell bomber.

The Mosquito carried no armament, but was not stripped down in any way for the flight, on which the average ground speed was nearly 320 m.p.h.

Piloted by Flt.-Lieut. L. P. Bond, and navigated by Flt.-Lieut. W. D. Ephgrave, the plane is the advance aircraft of a Mosquito squadron, which will begin aerial survey work soon on a number of Government projects, and which will be based temporarily at Rockhampton.

The surveys will cover soldier settlement areas, dam sites near Emerald, and the proposed rail route between Cloncurry and Darwin.

Flt.-Lieut. Bond said last night that before the flight he did not know what the old Sydney-Brisbane record was, but he asked Mascot control to time his flight "just in case."

There was a good chance that the machine would set new figures for the Brisbane-Townsville trip, to be made today.

BRISBANE PAPER 25.9.46

ARCHERFIELD CRASH NARROWLY AVERTED

Quick action by an R.A.A.F. pilot turned a possible crash into a normal belly "prang" at 9.20 a.m. at Archerfield aerodrome. ~~1944~~

A Mosquito twin-engined aircraft, taking off for a check flight, was at take-off speed when the pilot (Flight Lieutenant Gibbons) saw that the air speed indicator was not functioning. Immediately he cut both engines, and whipped up the under-carriage.

The starboard leg of the under-carriage snapped and flew over the cockpit, narrowly missing the pilot's head, as the aircraft half ground-looped, twisting the propeller blades.

The starboard wing tip and under sections of the plane were damaged. The pilot was not injured.

BRISBANE PAPER ~~47~~

CRASH 9.9.47