

PLANE BADLY DAMAGED IN LANDING

Developing engine trouble when 5000 ft. up over Maryborough yesterday a Lockheed Ventura lost height rapidly and made a forced landing at the aerodrome. The crew of five were uninjured.

When approaching the aerodrome the Lockheed appeared to be in difficulties and onlookers were of the opinion that the motors had cut out.

With the machine losing height at a fast rate, the pilot made a desperate effort to keep the plane under control and make the runway. When it appeared he would be successful the plane stalled and came down at an angle on a roadway 30 ft. off the boundary fence of the drome.

The machine shot off the road and crashed into a timber fence; the impact tearing away approximately 100 ft. of the fencing.

The machine then ploughed its way along the ground up a slight incline for 150 yards and finally swerved and came to a halt.

The undercarriage was completely torn off together with the greater portion of the starboard wing, while the port wing suffered considerable damage.

CREW UNINJURED

As the machine first struck the ground the few people on the aerodrome feared the worst was about to happen and immediately made for the plane. Mr. W. B. Watson, newsagent, and his son, Benjamin Watson, drove their car to the machine and as they approached the door were relieved to see it open and the entire crew of five jump out uninjured.

After the accident Mr. Watson recalled that some time back another Lockheed Ventura made a forced landing in somewhat similar circumstances and pulled up on practically the same spot as the location of yesterday's landing.

MARYBOROUGH CHRONICLE
31.1.46

5 Escape In Plane Accident

THE pilot of an R.A.A.F. Lockheed Ventura crashed his plane outside the Maryborough aerodrome after it had developed engine trouble 5000ft. up yesterday afternoon.

The five members of the crew escaped injury.

The aircraft left Bundaberg earlier in the day and was flying to Brisbane.

Eye-witnesses said it appeared to be in difficulties when approaching the aerodrome. It quickly lost height, and the motors apparently cut out. As it lost height the pilot tried to bring it down on the runway.

The machine then stalled and came down at an angle on the roadway 30 feet from the aerodrome boundary fence.

It shot off the road and crashed into a timber fence. The impact tore away about 100 feet of fencing. It then ploughed its way up a steep incline, swerved, and came to a halt.

Extensive Damage

The undercarriage and most of the starboard wing were torn off. The port wing was damaged.

When the machine hit the ground, people on the aerodrome thought the crew would be killed or seriously injured.

Mr. W. B. Watson, newsagent, drove his car to the crashed aircraft. The door opened and the crew got out uninjured.

Mr. Watson recalled that some time ago another Lockheed Ventura made a forced landing in similar circumstances and pulled up on practically the same spot.

A senior R.A.A.F. officer will leave Brisbane to-day to conduct an inquiry into the accident.

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