

Crash

It was August 5th 1955, I was in the garden at my home in Queen's Road when I heard a muffled bang, moments later I hear the siren which called the local fire brigade out. The news started to filter through that an aeroplane had crashed at Sculthorpe. It just so happened that I had just received a new bicycle and so I thought that I would give it a trial run out to have a look at the action.

I decided to follow the trail of water spilt from the fire engine and expected a run to RAF Sculthorpe, but instead the trail led me to Creak Road. Ahead I could see the fire engine plus two RAF engines from RAF West Raynham plus two American engines from RAF Sculthorpe, perhaps the first time that they had used the crash gates!

Arriving at the scene I found a large crater between two trees and halfway onto the paddock and half in the hedge, there was a solitary engine in the crater which I later discovered was a Vampire V of 5FTS from Oakington.

With their work done, the fire engines departed leaving some airmen to guard the scene. I do not recall any debris but a local man was running around with a small piece in his hand until one of the airmen pointed out the error of his ways with a capital F.

Crashes like this were fairly common in those days and I do not remember seeing anything in the Newspaper about it! Since then I have been told that the aircraft was a Meteor, but why only one engine when a Meteor had two?

The Hercules Bicycle lasted over ten years before becoming too worn to be repaired!

Thanks to Ian Brown for his help.