

AEROPLANE SENSATION

SERIOUS MISHAP AT COLERAINÉ

AN OFFICER INJURED.

Coleraine has had a variety of accidents in its record, but none with the circumstances attendant on the arranged departure of the peace loan aeroplane on Tuesday. After Sergeant Tracy had addressed the audience in urging that this district should subscribe its quota to the Second Peace Loan, he and his pilot companion, Captain M'Kenzie, resumed their places in the machine. With its nose headed in a south-westerly direction the aeroplane left the ground, but had not continued its ascent for more than 30 or 40 seconds when it was noticed that the engine had stopped and the aeroplane was making for earth in a paddock of the manse. Then a sound was heard—the machine having now become out of sight by an intervening rise in the land—and there was an instinctive fear that the flying visitors had crashed to the ground. The crowd rushed the ground, and found their anticipation realised. Sergeant Tracy was discovered with his face blood-covered and broken, Captain M'Kenzie was unhurt, and the machine was largely obscured by its distorted and broken frame work. Drs. Connor and Fleming, having been among the spectators, were fortunately soon on the scene and gave Sergeant Tracy the attention he needed, afterwards accompanying him by car to Mrs. Pleydell's hospital. The unfortunate officer, whose nose was almost ripped away and broken, was carefully looked after, and up to the present is progressing well.

The trouble is attributed to the power of the engine giving out before the machine had adjusted itself to gravitation conditions, and to an eddy of wind (which was occasioned doubtless by the conformation of the land) tilting the aeroplane off the horizontal. Had the failure of power arisen 50 or more feet higher up the machine would have recovered during its flight.

An officer is early expected from the Government aerodrome to remove the machine to Point Cook whither it will be conveyed in a dismantled form.

Crash at Coleraine (Avro 504?) in connection with Peace Loan, August 1920; Crash at Kyneton, Avro 504 with Clerget engine, publicising Peace Loan, 17 August 1920. The same incident reported by two local papers.

COLERAINÉ ALBION 19.8.20

PEACE LOAN AEROPLANE.

Completely Wrecked at Kyneton.

A Chapter of Accidents.

The Peace Loan Aeroplane piloted by Lieut. Treloar, and with Flight-Sergt. Haylett on board, arrived in Kyneton at 4.55 p.m. on Tuesday. The plane, a 130 h.p. Clerget Avro, left Point Cook at 4.30, and, with a favourable wind, flew the intervening distance in 25 minutes. The landing took place in Hall's Paddock, Molli-son street north, where there was a large gathering of local residents, including members of the local loan committee. An unfortunate accident occurred at the landing. Sergt. Hore, who was inside the fence helping to keep the crowd back, was knocked down by one of the back wings of the machine. He was taken by motor to the residence of Dr. Downing, who found that his shoulder was badly bruised, and that he was suffering from shock. The doctor advised the patient to keep to his bed for some days.

After the excitement caused by the above accident had subsided Cr. Michell, president of the unit, addressed the assemblage. He expressed regret at the non-arrival of Sergt. McKenzie, who was expected by motor earlier in the afternoon, but who had presumably been detained by accident or some other unforeseen circumstance.

Continuing, Cr. Michell made an earnest appeal for local support to the loan, reminding his hearers that it was for the purpose of repatriating the soldiers, to whom so much had been promised before they left the shores of Australia for the Great War. These promises, he said, should be fully and honourably carried out by the people. Several promises to purchase bonds ranging from £10 to £100 were made by persons present.

Sergt. McKenzie arrived by motor at 6 p.m. The crowd, however, had then dispersed. Sergt. McKenzie expressed regret for his late arrival, which, he said, was due to adverse weather conditions, and the very bad state of the roads. He expressed an intention of addressing the people of Kyneton yesterday morning, and arrived at the aeroplane early for the purpose of doing so. The attendance of the public, however, was so small that he decided not to speak.

At 10.30 a startling mishap occurred. Lieut. Treloar and Sergt. Haylett started on a flight to Bendigo, but had not been in the air more than half a minute when spectators noticed the machine descending. It landed with a loud crashing sound on the roadway at the eastern end of Yaldwin street, slightly beyond the view of the spectators at the starting point, who at once rushed to the scene. They found that the aviators had a miraculous escape, being practically uninjured. The machine, however, was completely wrecked. Lieut. Treloar stated subsequently that, when the aeroplane had reached an altitude of 100 feet, the engine failed, and caused the descent.

During the morning the wrecked machine was visited by crowds of people, and in the afternoon was taken to pieces and returned by train to Melbourne.

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