

PLANE CRASHES

ACCIDENT NEAR GLENELG

AVIATOR ESCAPES

Mr. Sidney Hamilton crashed in his Moth aeroplane near Glenelg yesterday. The aviator escaped with a shaking, but the machine was damaged.

For some time the De Havilland Moth aeroplane, belonging to the Messrs. J. P. and S. H. Hamilton, has been a familiar sight to residents of the Glenelg district. Both young men are expert aviators, and frequently give exhibitions of stunting in the vicinity of their home, which is located at the Ewell vineyards, of which they are the proprietors. They have flown to Melbourne and Sydney on more than one occasion, and in the Australian Register of Civil Aircraft, their machine is registered as G. AUGY. DH 60 G.

Engine Cuts Out

Yesterday morning Mr. Sidney Hamilton had made several successful flights, and about noon left his hangar, which is situated in the vicinity of one of the vineyards, close to Diagonal-road, New Glenelg, with a view to taking the air again. The plane had only risen about 20 ft. when the engine cut out, and the machine started to descend.

Mr. Hamilton endeavored to land on a large vacant piece of land, immediately to the south of the vineyard, but the momentum the plane had attained was not sufficient to clear the fence, and it crashed in the vineyard, within about 6 ft. of the fence. Mr. Hamilton brought it down on its wing with the object of lessening the impact, and he was lucky in escaping with a severe shaking.

Damage to Machine

A representative of "The Advertiser," who visited the scene of the accident about an hour afterwards, found the young aviator, and three assistants, dismantling the machine. The fuselage appeared to be badly smashed, and the plane generally bore evidence of the force with which it had struck the ground.

Mr. Hamilton said that until it was thoroughly examined it would be impossible to estimate the extent of the damage, or what would be the probable cost to repair it. Its purchase price was about £800. He hoped to have it in the air again before long. He could advance no reason for the engine cutting-out, as during the morning it had functioned perfectly.