

BELFAST PLANE CRASH

Twenty-seven people were killed when a Viking airliner belonging to British European Airways crashed at Nutt's Corner Airport, Belfast. Only a few seconds after passengers had been warned to fasten their safety-belts, there came a deafening roar and the aircraft burst into flames. It had struck a beacon pylon, snapping it into fragments. Then the airliner plunged to earth, completely destroying a radar control building by the side of the airfield. By a miracle, eight people on board survived the disaster. All that remained intact of the aircraft was its tail unit.

One of the engines was hurled 40 yards from the main wreckage. When firemen and police first arrived on the scene, pieces of the aircraft lay burning with an intense heat. The dreadful tragedy goes down on record as the worst civil air disaster in the British Isles for nearly a year.