



CRASH SCENE—

This general scene by Bee Photographer Tony Mazmanian shows where an Air National Guard jet plane crashed, firing the home of Joseph F. Neel at 4042 East Dakota Avenue.

Jet Crashes, Kills Fresno Pilot; Flames Destroy Home



Exploding Shells Peril Crowds Drawn To Scene

Additional Photos On Page 12-A
By Ward W. Grimes

A 23 year old Air National Guard jet pilot, Second Lieutenant Donn Austin, of 3126 Normal Avenue, died yesterday afternoon when his aircraft flying a weekend alert mission exploded in northeast Fresno, set fire and destroyed a nearby home and sent 50 caliber machine gun bullets flying in every direction.

The plane, fully loaded for combat and carrying 670 gallons of fuel and six machine guns, crashed and exploded in a field near Cedar and Dakota



Lieutenant Donn Austin
Avenues, two miles west of the Fresno Air Terminal, about 3:40 o'clock.

Fuel Sprays Home
Flaming fuel sprayed over the three bedroom home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Neel at 4042 East Dakota Avenue, 50 yards away and ignited the entire structure. Almost instantaneously live shells in the ammunition belts began exploding, endangering neighborhood real-

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Burned Jet's Ammunition Is Dangerous

Major Philip Gangemi, the acting base commander of the Fresno Air National Guard, asked for the return of any ammunition which may have been carried away from the scene of the jet crash in which Second Lieutenant Donn Austin was killed.

He said even if the powder in the ammunition has been burned the primers in the 30-caliber cartridges are capable of exploding and blowing off a person's hand or otherwise causing injury.

Gangemi reported someone reported two boys carried away a belt of the ammunition from the crash.

He said a member of the Fresno 194th Fighter Interceptor Squadron will be sent to pick up the ammunition if the finders telephone 5-8369.

Gangemi is the acting base commander in the absence of Lieutenant Colonel George Edmonds who is in Boise, Idaho, for an air national guard gunnery meet.

In The Bee Today

Crowds Attracted To Scene Hamper Aides

By Donald Slinkard

A low flying jet fighter plane, a muffled explosion and a towering column of black smoke was the signal which attracted thousands of Fresnoans to the scene of a tragic plane crash in suburban northeast Fresno yesterday afternoon.

SF Man Dies As Car Overtakes On McMullin Grade

Wilson Walker, 64, of San Francisco was killed at 6:45 AM today when he was thrown out of the automobile in which he was riding as it overturned at McMullin Grade and Lassen Avenue, two miles north of Helm.

Three other occupants of the car suffered serious injuries. They are Walker's son in law, James J. Jackson of San Francisco, the driver of the car, the

sons of spectators were present before the first fire truck or policemen arrived. Within 15 or 20 minutes the area was so crowded with cars and people the police were forced to use a loud speaker to try to keep the onlookers away.

Besides interfering with the work of emergency officials, there was danger of exploding ammunition aboard the plane.

Ammunition Pops
From a distance of 50 yards or so, the ammunition popped with the irregularity of a giant popcorn popper. Despite the danger, firemen moved their equipment as close as the flames would allow and quickly extinguished the burning plane.

The aircraft landed just outside a house and the flaming jet fuel showered the dwelling and nearby trees, turning it all into a roaring holocaust.

A number of persons reported seeing the plane make an extreme bank to the left after coming off what at first seemed to be a normal takeoff.

From three quarters of a mile away, it seemed the craft was too low—probably 100 feet—for the maneuver and when the nose dipped it was obvious a crash was imminent.

The impact of the airplane striking the ground and the explosion were hardly discernible. Most persons lying nearby did not know of the accident until they saw the smoke.

In less than five minutes dozens of people had interrupted

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• BARS •

By Hal Cochran
When you're set to flop back and take it easy on the beach,



POTENTIAL DEATH—Ammunition boxes containing 50 caliber shells for the plane's six machine guns were scattered in the wreckage. Many of the shells were exploded by the heat of the flames and sent projectiles whining through the air even as a crowd of curious spectators kept pressing closer.

Dispute Over PGE Document Opens Power Policy Hearing

By Tom Arden

McClatchy Newspaper Service

SAN FRANCISCO—Short exchanges over a document given to interior department officials by Herman C. Kruse, a Washington, DC, lobbyist for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, today marked the opening of the house of representatives public works and resources committee hearing on private power company influences in setting Eisenhower administration power policies.

The Republican leadership's partnership with the power trust has been attacked by the way he wantell, and said his reference still applied.

1955 TRAFFIC RECORD

7	87
City Deaths	County Deaths
This Year	This Year
0	70
A Year Ago	A Year Ago

latter's wife, Mrs. Josephine Jackson, and his niece, Essie Jean Jackson, 18, of Mountain View, Santa Clara County.

Wheel Came Off
Chief Deputy Coroner Ben Paschall said the Jackson car was traveling southwesterly on McMullin Grade when the right rear wheel came off as the car started around a curve.

The Jackson girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson, of

Rita, Daughter Head For Europe, Visit With Aly

HOLLYWOOD — UP — Rita Hayworth, reportedly in disguise, is en route to New York and Europe to take her daughter, Yasmine, for a visit with Prince Aly Khan.

Sources close to the movie queen said she slipped out of town Saturday by train with Yasmine, Rebecca, 10, Rita's daughter by Orson Welles, a nurse and a tutor.

The actress, before leaving, sent word to estranged husband Dick Haymes through her attorneys she is not filing for divorce yet but wants "more time to think things over."

Rita's "secret" trip to Europe apparently will cancel a suit in Reno which Aly Khan filed in an effort to force her to bring her child to Paris for a visit, her attorney, Bartley Crum of New York, is scheduled to be in Reno tomorrow to approve the withdrawal of the case when it comes up in court.

Friends said that after Rita and Haymes broke up, Aly sent word suggesting she visit Europe and he would withdraw his suit. Rita is expected to meet Aly and his representatives in Cannes, France, and stay at least six weeks.

Schmidt Is Granted Extra 30 Day Leave

WASHINGTON — UP — The Pentagon today granted Airman Daniel C. Schmidt of Portland, Ore., the modern Enoch Arden, an extra 30 day leave to continue his second honeymoon.

Rock Workers Fast Is Called
A strike of longshoremen in San Francisco was called off by a court order.