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WADHURST PLANE CRASH.

Disaster strikes without warning at the picturesque village of Wadhurst in Sussex when a jet plane crashes through the crowded High Street and explodes. By a miracle, only four lives are lost, including the plane's crew of two. But shops and houses which have stood for centuries are ripped to pieces, and firemen battle with the flames throughout the night.

This is the grocer's shop where the plane exploded. Engines and fuselage tore on, leaving a trail of blazing wreckage behind them. One red-hot engine smashed through the roof of the 500-years-old Queen's Head Hotel.

The plane, a twin-jet Meteor night fighter, was miles off its course, the R.A.F. reports. Villagers say it was struggling to gain height when it crashed. We may never know the whole truth of the tragedy - but Wadhurst can be thankful that in such a disaster many more lives were not lost.