

A TOWN IN MOURNING

From Ianfranc Secondary Modern School went the bodies of 33 boys and one master who died when their plane crashed into a mountain in Norway. This, surely, was the saddest day Croydon has ever known. With one other boy and another master, who will be buried separately, they light-heartedly set out for a wonderful holiday. They came back in coffins of Norwegian wood. Twelve-hundred people filled the parish church of St. John the Baptist.

The presence of Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, expressed the sympathy felt by the whole nation. At the Mitchan Road Cemetery, near to the School, the boys and master were buried, side by side, in a common grave. The air was heavy with the scent of the 2,000 wreaths.

Schoolmates who a short time ago had perhaps envied the party going to Norway sorrowfully attended the funeral. For 34 of the boys they knew so well, life had been cruelly ended.

The Bishop of Croydon recited the psalm in which the words, "The days of man are but as grass"...Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. To the parents, and all who knew the boys as friends, everyone offers deep sympathy from the very heart.