

On the 14th December 1942, flight X3707 ,a Wellington MK III, took off from RAF Turnhouse at around 10:30am on Monday morning in order to test some 'special equipment'. Due to a fault with the equipment, the aircraft was ordered to return. A short while later the aircraft was seen skimming the trees, a few dozen feet from the ground and heading straight towards the recently built bungalows and neat gardens of Craiglockhart View where it crashed fortunately missing them.

One unnamed resident said at the time: "I head the aeroplane and from the noise I judged it must have been very low. Then I saw it just skimming some trees. It seemed to be in trouble and I was horrified because it seemed utterly impossible to avoid crashing into the houses in its path. It went very low and I heard a crash. I ran down a side road towards the canal then there was a burst of flame and when I got in view of the allotments, the plane seemed to be awfully close to one of the houses.

Ammunition was banging and popping and it was hopeless to attempt to get near the crash"

In fact, the plane had come down in the back garden of one of Craiglockhart View's bungalows, just feet from the back door and the startled middle-aged woman inside.

All five aircraft crew died, the youngest being only 23. The Wellington's pilot, Thomas Lennox-French is buried on Corstorphine Hill, just a few miles away from the crash

Further information can be found by following the link

<https://aircrewremembered.com/french-thomas.html>

<https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/day-bomber-crash-landed-craiglockhart-1684355>