

Chicklade Memorial to crew killed in test flight crash

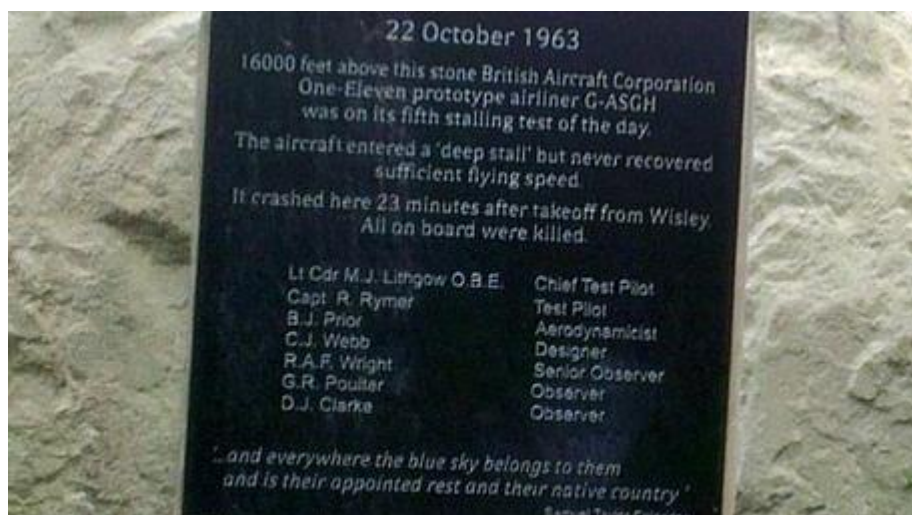


Seven airmen who died 50 years ago when their jet airliner crashed in Wiltshire have been remembered with a memorial.

The entire crew was killed when the BAC One-Eleven prototype came down at Cratt Hill, near Chicklade, during a test flight on 22 October 1963.

Two pilots, three observers, a designer and an aerodynamicist were in the plane which had taken off from the now-disused Wisley Airfield in Surrey.

Their names are etched onto a plaque as part of the crash site memorial.



(BBC News Wiltshire - 21 October, 2013)

22 October 1963

16000 feet above this stone British Aircraft Corporation

One-Eleven prototype airliner G-ASGH

was on its fifth stalling test of the day.

The aircraft entered a “deep stall” but never recovered
sufficient flying speed.

It crashed here 23 minutes after takeoff from Wisley.

All on board were killed.

Lt. Cdr. M. J. Lithgow O.B.E.	Chief Test Pilot
Capt. R. Rymer	Test Pilot
B. J. Prior	Aerodynamicist
C. J. Webb	Designer
R. A. F, Wright	Senior Observer
G. R. Poulter	Observer
D. J. Clarke	Observer

*and everywhere the blue sky belongs to them
and is their appointed rest and their native country*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

OPC NOTE:

The memorial plaque shown in the above article has the incorrect aircraft registration – “G-ASGH”. The Registration should be G-ASHG. The error on the plaque was noticed too late to have the plaque rectified before the unveiling ceremony.

The plaque has since been rectified to shown the correct identification:

One-Eleven prototype airliner G-ASHG