

Aircraft : Vickers Vanguard 951, G-APEC.

Engines : Four Rolls-Royce Tyne, Type 506, Turbo-propeller.

Owner and Operator : British European Airways Corporation Ltd,
Beeline House, Ruislip, Middlesex, United Kingdom.

Crew : Commander - Captain E. T. Probert - Killed.
Co-pilot - Mr. J. M. Davies - Killed.
Third pilot - Mr. B. J. S. Barnes - Killed.
Supernumerary - Captain G. Partridge - Killed.
Cabin staff - Four - Killed.

Passengers : 55, killed.

Place of accident : Aarsele, West Flanders, Belgium.
(50°59'32" N - 03°26'26" E).

Date and time : 2 October 1971 at 1010 hrs.
All times in this report are GMT.

SUMMARY.

Whilst in level flight at normal cruising speed at flight level (FL) 190, G-APEC suffered a major rupture in the rear pressure bulkhead. This failure caused the tailplanes to become pressurised. The resultant loss of the major portion of both horizontal tail surfaces caused the aircraft to enter a steep dive from which it was not possible to recover.

The aircraft was destroyed by ground impact and post crash fire.

There were no survivors from the 8 crew and 55 passengers.