

An aeroplane flying in the direction of Fermoy was forced, owing to engine trouble, to descend at the Red Bog, about one mile from Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

While the pilot was absent reporting the breakdown to the nearest military station the aeroplane was set on fire and burned.

Another report says that the machine was fired at by a party of men and brought to the ground. When it landed one of the occupants proceeded to Kilfinane, leaving an officer in charge. A number of civilians arrived on the scene, and, it is said, the officer was taken away to an unknown destination. The machine was then burned.

OFFICER MISSING.

The district was invested by Crown forces yesterday and extensive searches were made. No trace of the missing officer was forthcoming up to last evening.

A number of the principal traders in Kilmallock were warned by the police that unless the officer was returned within 36 hours they would be held responsible.

A similar warning was issued in Kilfinane. The inhabitants of both towns are in a state of trepidation.

A number of aeroplanes circled over Kilfinane district yesterday, and loud explosions were heard in the locality.

Notices, it is also reported, were dropped warning the public to give information as to the whereabouts of the missing officer.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Dublin Castle reports that aeroplane No. 1487 made a forced landing at Ballinameena, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, at 4 p.m. on Thursday. ^[sic] The pilot, whose name was Morton, went for assistance, leaving his observer Mackay, by the machine. During his absence a number of armed men attacked the machine, and when the pilot returned he found his comrade missing, and the machine in flames.

[Feb 10th]