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*Western Mail*  
*5/8/52*  
*P. R. Thomas*

# Airliner hit by a model?

**AIRLINE** captain Peter Gordon yesterday described how his craft with 44 passengers on board was hit by a mysterious object — possibly a model plane — as it took off from Leeds-Bradford Airport.

“We were climbing quite normally at about 150 feet, at about 1,000 feet a minute. Suddenly something flashed across my windscreen.

“It was totally unidentifiable. There was a large thud. We heard it hit the fuselage and so did the passengers. There was no loss of pressure and all the controls were working, so we decided to carry on.”

When the Dan-Air plane reached Jersey it was found to have a buckled propellor blade and two dents in the wing and fuselage.

Airport director Mr Gordon Dennison said that a woman had seen two model aircraft being flown in the area at the time of take-off.

“Flying models in that area is illegal and if that turns out to be the case we will press for prosecution,” he said.

West Yorkshire police are investigating.