

B. H. DE LAY KILLED AS PLANE COLLAPSES

Thursday, July 5, 1923

DE LAY, STUNT-FLYER, DIES AS PLANE FALLS

**Noted Aviator and R. I. Short, Auto Accessories Man,
Victims of Fatality When Ship Collapses Over Holiday Crowds**

While thousands of holiday makers looked on, B. H. De Lay, noted Venice aviator and R. I. Short, president of the Essandee Corporation of Los Angeles, plunged to instant death yesterday afternoon when their airplane crashed to earth near Ocean Park. The plane burst into flames a few moments after the crash, but the bodies of both men had been taken from the wreckage before the blaze started. The machine was practically destroyed by the fire. It was called "The Wasp" and was owned by De Lay.



B. H. De Lay

Collapsing of the wings while the flyers were "looping the loop" at a height of 2000 feet caused the accident. De Lay was piloting the machine. With Short as a passenger he had left Clover Field a few moments before and was flying toward Santa Monica.

Midway between the two cities and at a point over the National Highway, De Lay started a series of long graceful loops. Thousands of motorists and pedestrians celebrating the Fourth at the beaches, paused to watch the airship's movements.

Suddenly, both wings of the plane bent back as though on hinges. The machine turned, nose foremost, toward the ground

and came hurtling down at terrific speed. Other flyers at Clover Field, who had been watching the flight, jumped into an automobile and drove at top speed to the spot where the plane seemed about to strike.

They arrived there about a minute or two after the fall and took the bodies from the splintered mess of steel and wood just in time to prevent their cremation.

SHORT CAREFUL FLYER

Short, who owned the Essandee Corporation at 330 West Sixteenth Street, an automobile accessory shop, had been flying for sport for the last four years. He was known as an unusually careful flyer and had never been in an accident before. He owned a plane which had been housed at Clover Field. Among his immediate survivors are a widow, two young sons and his parents, all of whom reside here. The Short residence is at 1438 Magnolia Avenue.

De Lay, who was a noted "stunt" flyer, was one of the best known aviators in Southern California. He had been flying at Venice for the last ten years and had been in several crashes. Last August he was seriously injured during a night flight at the beach. Surviving him besides his parents are a widow and [two] small daughters, who reside in Venice.

The bodies were taken to the J. W. Todd funeral home in Santa Monica.

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