

EVIDENCE ON AIR DISASTER

Research by two Bedford scientists at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Bedford was a reason for the West German authorities reopening an inquiry recently into the cause of the 1958 Munich air disaster. The scientists are Mr. Ralph Maltby-(44) of St. Alban Road, Bedford, and Mr. Bradbury Illingworth, of Greenacres, Putnoe.

Mr. Maltby and Mr. Illingworth argued at the inquiry that studies they had conducted at Bedford could provide an explanation of the crash. and there were at least doubts about ice on the aircraft's wings causing the disaster.

Mr. Maltby told a representative of this newspaper. "The original Commission said the crash was caused by icing. As a result of our experiments at RAE we gave another opinion - that icing would not have had any significant effect on take-off. It was on this evidence that the inquiry was re-opened."

Mr. Maltby and Mr. Illingworth carried out research at RAE to measure the effect slush would have on take-off performance. The inquiry is continuing in private.

Footnote: The chartered British European Airways Elizabethan carrying members of the Manchester United football team crashed after a third attempt at take-off from Munich airport. 23 people being killed.