

## **AJ-1 crash site near Albuquerque, NM**

DATE June 8, 1951 (handwritten on newspaper article)

AIRCRAFT AJ-1, Identification UNKNOWN

GENERAL LOCATION South Valley, Albuquerque, NM

PEOPLE ABOARD Two U.S. Navy crew members and one North American Aircraft Co. civilian

REFERENCES Newspaper article, probably *Albuquerque Journal*

### HISTORY

The subject airplane was attached to the naval air detachment at Kirtland AF Base. It was a new airplane, made by North American Aircraft with one jet and two propeller driving engines. This flight was for routine training. Aboard were a pilot, crew chief and a civilian North American Aircraft field representative checking on the plane's operation. Eyewitnesses reported seeing the civilian parachute out of the plane and the left conventional engine "burst afire." The civilian survived. He said the two Navy men told him to bail out and they were right behind him as he went out the door. No one saw them bail out. After the civilian escaped, the plane exploded and plummeted into a field belonging to a local dairy. Both Navy men perished.

Crash explorers visited the former dairy site in 2007 and searched for aircraft remains. The site is now a hayfield that has been repeatedly plowed and replanted over many years. The area also had direct access to roads so crash recovery equipment was readily available. No crash materials were found in 2007.



Photo of a similar North American AJ-1 Savage aircraft