

FATAL AIR FORCE CRASH.

Pilot Was on Qualifying Flight.

EVIDENCE AT INQUEST.

WINDSOR, Monday.

Flight-Lieutenant James Ballingall Dundas Hamilton, 29, was within two hours of qualifying to fly an R.A.A.F. Lockheed Hudson aircraft with full crew when he was killed in the crash of one of these machines at Freeman's Reach on June 17.

Pilot-officer Wallace Malcolm Stewart, 22, was killed with him. At an inquest to-day, the District Coroner, Mr. H. S. Johnston, returned a finding of accidental death.

Squadron-Leader Robert Henry Simms, commanding No. 6 Squadron, Richmond, said that after Hamilton had received 15 hours' dual instruction on Hudson aircraft, he tested him for solo flying and found him fit to fly solo. After carrying out his first solo flight of 55 minutes, he was given another 30 minutes' dual check by Flying-Officer Hall, and sent off solo again. After completing a further nine or 10 hours' solo flying he would have been given a further check before being allowed to fly a Hudson with a full crew. Before the flight on which he crashed, Hamilton had done eight hours' solo in Hudson aircraft.

Stewart was carried as a passenger to assist the pilot in the event of his having to lower the undercarriage by the emergency device if the normal means of lowering the undercarriage failed.

Hamilton was a safe, steady, and reliable pilot, perfectly capable of handling Hudson aircraft under normal circumstances.

Fitters and riggers stated that the machine was checked over before the flight, and was in good order.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

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Bomber Pilot's Solo Flying Experience

Flight-Lieutenant James Dollingall Dundas Hamilton, 29, who was killed when an R.A.A.F. Lockheed Hudson bomber crashed at Freeman's Reach, on June 17, had flown eight hours' solo in that type of plane.

Squadron-Leader Robert Henry Simms, of the R.A.A.F. Station, Richmond, said this yesterday at an inquest at Richmond.

Pilot-Officer Wallace Malcolm Stewart, 22, who was also killed, was in the plane to assist Hamilton with an emergency landing gear device if the normal lowering gear failed, Squadron-Leader Simms told the Coroner (Mr. H. S. Johnson).

The Coroner said the men had died from injuries received in an aeroplane crash.

DAILY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

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