

A17-29

FALL FROM PLANE.

Pilot's Harness Undone.

CORONER'S FINDING.

The City Coroner, Mr. Oram, at the conclusion of his inquest yesterday, said he was satisfied that Pilot Instructor Lenn Bayliss had fallen from a plane over Randwick on November 18, because the harness which should have secured him in the plane had come undone. How that had happened would probably never be known.

Mr. Oram returned a finding of accidental death. He said there was not the slightest suggestion in the evidence that Bayliss had committed suicide.

Leading Aircraftman Arthur Wellesley Clarke, of the R.A.A.F., said that, while he was piloting an R.A.A.F. training plane, Bayliss, his instructor, told him to make a slow roll to the left. They were 3,200 feet up. From an inverted position, he saw Bayliss fall from the front cockpit, clutching at the plane as he fell.

"HARNESS IN PERFECT ORDER".

Robert John Watts, a flight engineer employed by Air Flite Pty. Ltd., said that he examined the plane immediately after it returned to Mascot. He found the harness which Bayliss had used in perfect condition.

He had experimented with the harness on himself. After locking it in a high position, he had found that by a sudden thrust upwards it was possible for the locking pin to pull out because of the pull of the cord to which it was attached.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
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