

Air Crash A Mystery

TAMWORTH, Sunday.

The Deputy-Coroner (Mr. H. H. Stevenson) found yesterday that Leading-Aircraftsman William Moore Aspinall, 24, died from shock and suffocation.

A plane piloted by Aspinall crashed and burst into flames on the Manilla road, 10 miles from Tamworth, on October 9 last.

Aspinall was a trainee at the 6th Elementary Flying School, Tamworth.

The deputy-coroner said the plane was airworthy, but the evidence did not enable him to say why Aspinall attempted to land.

Joy Autumn Hewlett, of Attunga, whose home is about 400 yards from where the plane crashed, said Aspinall was only an acquaintance, not a friend.

Aspinall had told her once on the telephone that he had dropped a note near her place. She had not found the note.

Miss Hewlett said she was not at home on the morning of the crash.

"400 Feet Up"

Richard John O'Halloran, junr., farmer, of Attunga, said Aspinall's plane circled over Hewlett's house and flew over the paddocks.

The plane was about 400 feet up when he first saw it.

When the plane appeared to be twice as high as the transmission power lines, it spun over and crashed.

O'Halloran formed the impression that the pilot was going to land.

There was a motor bicycle underneath the pilot on the road, but he would not see it until the last minute.

O'Halloran said that every day for a fortnight previously, pilots used to fly over the area where the crash occurred.

They seemed to make it a turning point, he said.

TRAINEE-PILOT'S DEATH.

Crashed on Road.

TAMWORTH, Sunday.

Leading-Aircraftsman William Moore Aspinall, 24, trainee of the 6th Elementary Flying Training School, at Tamworth, died from shock and suffocation when a plane which he was piloting crashed and burst into flames on Manilla Road, 10 miles from Tamworth, on October 9.

Recording this finding at an inquest yesterday, the deputy coroner, Mr. H. H. Stevenson, said that the cause of death had been accidental.

He further found that the plane was in airworthy condition, but evidence did not enable him to form an opinion as to why Aspinall attempted to make the landing.

Evidence showed that Aspinall had been instructed on the morning of his death to carry out solo practice in steep turns, with and without the engine, above 2,000 feet and outside the circuit area of the aerodrome.

He had had 17 hours flying experience, both dual and solo.

Joy Autumn Hewlett, of Wyralong, Attunga, whose home is about 440 yards from the scene of the crash, said that she had met Aspinall once or twice. He had once told her that he had dropped a note near her place. She had not found the note. She was not at home on the morning of the crash. There was no degree of friendship between her and Aspinall; he was only a casual acquaintance.

Richard John O'Halloran, junior, farmer, of Killarney, near Attunga, said that he was driving sheep on the road about 150 yards from where the plane crashed. Witness formed the impression that the pilot was going to land, but it appeared that he was trying to avoid a motor cycle on the road.

10-40

DAILY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

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