

DEATH OF PILOT IN CRASH

From Our Special Correspondent.
NARRANDERA, Saturday.

Touching a desk on the R.A.A.F. advanced landing field with the tip of its wing as its pilot was carrying out low-flying exercises, a Tiger Moth training machine zoomed to a height of 100 feet before it crashed at Grong Grong to-day.

THE pilot, Sergt.-Pilot Arthur Lloyd Bernard Smith, 24, of Darling Point-road, Darling Point, died of injuries, and his pupil, leading Aircraftsman Lyall N. Ross, 22, of Balwyn, Victoria, suffered facial injuries and severe shock.

The impact with the desk almost tore one of the wings from the plane. Its wing was flapping as it rose into the air before nose-diving to earth again.

The desk was used for controlling flying administration.

Seated At Desk

When the impact occurred, Flying-Officer Dudley P. Everett, 28, of West Australia, was seated at the desk, controlling the machines in flight.

The collision hurled Flying-Officer Everett and the desk into the air, the Flying-Officer sustaining a compound fracture of the ankle.

Grong Grong is eight miles east of Narrandera.

Smith, who had several hundred hours' flying experience as a civil pilot before the war, and joined the R.A.A.F. on October 7, 1940, was a son of Mr. A. E. Smith, a director of Australian Glass Manufacturers Co. Pty., Ltd., and a nephew of Mr. W. J. Smith, Director of Gun Ammunition Production. He completed his instructor's course at the Central Flying School, Camden, and was posted to No. 8 Elementary Flying Training School, Narrandera, several weeks ago.

SUNDAY SUN (SYDNEY) 5.4.41

R.A.A.F. CRASH.

Pilot Dead.

THREE OTHER PERSONS
INJURED.

An R.A.A.F. flying instructor was killed, and a pupil pilot, a flying-officer, and a sergeant-pilot were injured on Saturday when a Tiger Moth trainer plane crashed on the Grong Grong advanced landing ground, near Narrandera.

The plane, flying low, touched a desk on the ground with the tip of one wing, and then swung straight upwards, for about 100 feet. It came to earth like a stone, with the wing practically torn off.

Sergeant-pilot Arthur Lloyd Bernard Smith, 24, married, of Darling Point Road, Sydney, was killed. Leading-aircraftsman Lyall N. Ross, 22, of Balwyn (Vic.), his pupil, suffered facial injuries and severe shock, and was admitted to Narrandera Hospital.

Flying-officer Dudley P. Everett, 28, of Western Australia, who was sitting at the desk, received a compound fracture of an ankle, when he was hurled into the air. Sergeant-pilot D. J. Bourke, who was also at the desk, received minor injuries.

Sergeant-pilot Smith was the son of Mr. A. E. Smith, a director of the Australian Glass Manufacturers Co. Pty., Ltd., and a nephew of Mr. W. J. Smith, Director of Gun Ammunition Production. He joined the R.A.A.F. on October 7 last year, and, before enlisting, had flown several hundred hours as a civil pilot. He underwent a flying instructor's course at the Central Flying Training School, Camden, and was assigned to the No. 8 Elementary Flying Training School, Narrandera. His cousin, Mr. D. Smith, was killed near Kingsford Smith airport in a crash about 10 years ago.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Central Area Headquarters of the R.A.A.F. stated last night: "Smith and Ross were on an instructional flight, and were carrying out low flying.

"By what appeared to be an error of judgment, a wing-tip crashed into the flight desk—a desk from which flying administration is controlled, and which was on the leeward side of the aerodrome.

"The wing was practically torn off, and the aircraft climbed to about 100 feet and then crashed. Smith died shortly afterwards."

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