

## AIRMEN CRASH ON MERCY TRIP

From LES FITZ-HENRY

HOLLANDIA, Monday.—While flying penicillin to save the life of a comrade, two Australian airmen nearly lost their own lives.

But they got the drug through.

The airmen are: Flying-Officer J. H. Treenoweth, of Perth, and Warrant-Officer H. J. Hammersley, of Alphington, Victoria.

Their Beaufighter crashed into a jungle swamp.

They were rescued by friendly natives after escaping from the blazing plane, and 24 hours later delivered the drug.

The airman whose life they saved is a flight rigger who had been shot in the chest near Aitape (north coast of British New Guinea).

### Crashed In Swamp

The mercy flight began from Noemfoor Island, off the north-west coast of Dutch New Guinea. The plane crashed within 25 miles of Aitape.

Pilot Treenoweth pancaked the plane in a sago swamp. It immediately exploded.

The two airmen fought their way through the flames from the cockpit, their only injuries being minor burns and cuts on the face.

The airmen slept overnight in a native hut, and set out at dawn to deliver the drug.

Guided by six native boys, they made the journey by canoe and on foot.

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