

Airmen Missing In N.-West Australia

MELBOURNE, Monday.—Squadron-Leader W. L. Wackett is one of two N.S.W. airmen reported missing in North-western Australia.

The other airman reported missing is Pilot-Officer Keith Eric William Noble, of Manly.

Wackett and Noble were pilot and navigator, respectively, of an aircraft which did not return from an operational flight.

Wackett, whose home is at Bellevue Hill, is a son of Wing-Commander L. J. Wackett, of Melbourne.

He was one of the original members of the famous No. 75 Kittyhawk Squadron.

After being shot down over Lae (New Guinea) in 1942, he swam ashore, and was assisted by natives in trekking through the jungle to Port Moresby.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 3. 10. 44

SQUADRON-LEADER W. WACKETT MISSING

MELBOURNE, Monday.—Squadron-Leader W. L. Wackett, of Bellevue Hill, Sydney, son of Wing-Commander L. J. Wackett, has been reported missing in north-west Australia.

He was pilot of an aircraft, with Pilot-Officer K. E. W. Noble, of Manly, as navigator, which disappeared when returning from an operational flight.

A search by air and land is being made in the area where the aircraft is reported missing.

Squadron-Leader Wackett was one of the original members of No. 75 Kittyhawk Squadron.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 3. 10. 44

14-Months-Old Air Tragedy!

SYDNEY, Saturday.—An R.A.A.F. plane which crashed 14 months ago has been located 100 miles from Darwin.

A Beaufighter, it had not burned after crashing.

The plane was flown by Squadron-Leader Wilbur Wackett, of Melbourne, and Flying-Officer Keith Noble, of Sydney.

First reports of the wreckage were brought in by aborigines. A search party which travelled

to the area by truck, returned to the base, reporting that it was unable to examine the wreckage.

Another search party, on horseback, and equipped to deal with wrecked aircraft, is now on its way to the scene.

The two airmen, who have been posted missing for 14 months, were returning from a strike in

Timor. They were forced by bush-fire smoke, which obscured their aerodrome, to seek an alternative landing ground.

It is presumed that the plane ran out of fuel and crashed.

Squadron-Leader Wackett, only son of Wing-Commander Wackett, the aircraft designer, had previously survived a crash in jungle country on an earlier mission against the Japanese.

BRISBANE PAPER '45

CRASH 27.9.44

FOUND 11.45