

↑ **TOM KING, 17, has a passion for planes — so much so he has this World War II Wirraway parked in the backyard of his home in Tiernan St., East Preston.**



Tom bought the fuselage for £90 and the engine for £50 from a second-hand dealer.

Without the help of plans, Tom, who works in a drawing office, and his father, **Mr Jack King**, fitted the wings and motor by "trial and error."

← **LEFT: Tom is pictured yesterday working on the Wirraway, which almost fills the backyard.**

Tom, a member of the Australian Aircraft Restoration Group, is also buying a Firefly carrier-based fighter for £500.

When he has finished paying this off, he will start saving for his greatest ambition — flying lessons and, eventually, a pilot's licence.

But Tom's not dreaming of the day he will fly jets.

"They're not for me. I like the propeller planes, and the warplanes built during World War II are the greatest," he says.

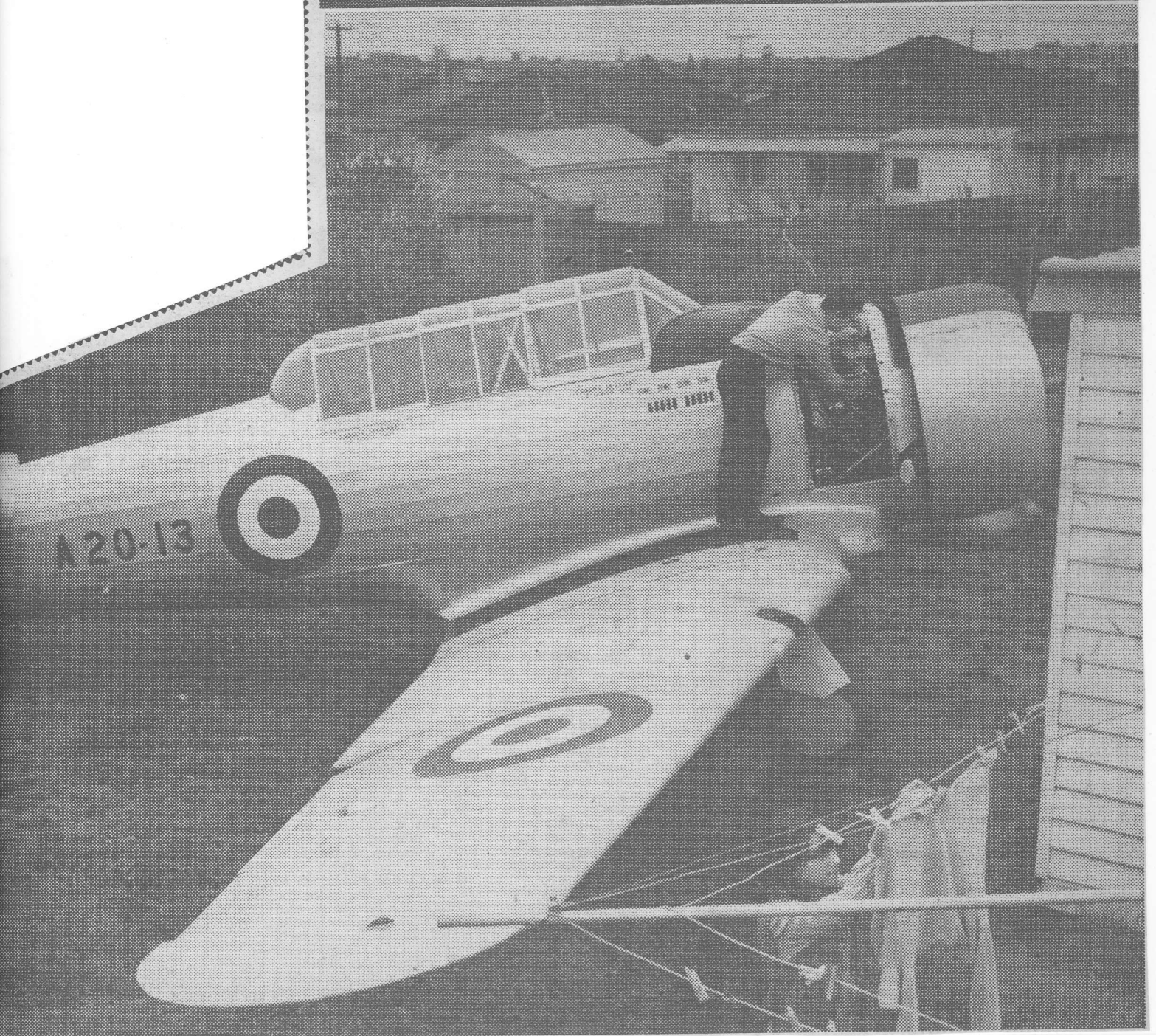
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The plane in his yard



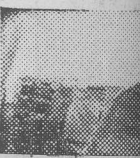
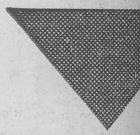
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TOM KING working on his Wirraway in his backyard.

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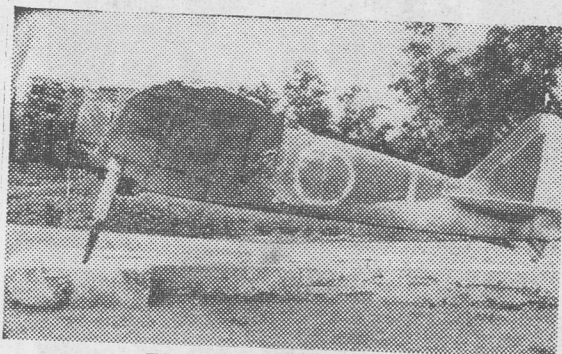
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Tom swaps his Wirraway for this Zero



THE ZERO at Kavieng.

Twenty-year-old Tom King of Tier-nan St., East Preston, is clearing his old Wirraway out of his backyard.

And he's replacing it with a Japanese Second World War Zero.

By
**BRUCE
BASKETT**

The Zero and hundreds like it took part in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It later crash landed on the tip of New Ireland and was pieced together by the Papua-New Guinea War Memorial Trust.

It is believed to be the only one still intact and has been standing as a monument on Kavieng airstrip, New Ireland, about 150 miles north-west of Rabaul.

TO DEFEND

The Wirraway in Tom's back yard was one of the seven Australian training planes which set out to defend Rabaul against 100 Japanese planes early in 1942.

Tom's neighbors were just getting used to it squatting in the backyard when he decided recently to try to get the Zero.

The Trust would not sell the Zero, but was quite happy to make an exchange for the Wirraway.

The Wirraway will be loaded on to the freighter Braeside this week for the trip to New Ireland.

Tom, a storeman, says it will cost him about \$800 to ship the Zero home.

The only hitch in his plans could be interven-

tion by the Australian Government — he is eligible for National Service and has to wait for the result of the ballot.

Tom spent two years rebuilding the Wirraway. He bought the fuselage for \$180 and the engine for \$100 from a second-hand dealer.

He and his father, Mr Jack King, fitted the wings and motor by "trial and error."

Tom's mother, Mrs Mavis King, said today she did not mind having a plane in the backyard.

"We have encouraged him all along and we think it is a wonderful pastime.

"It takes up only a small area and there is plenty of room to hang the washing and look after the garden.

"Planes are his sole interest and he puts all his spare effort into tinkering round with the Wirraway. I cannot see the Zero making any difference.

"At least we always know where he is," she said.

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The A20 takes its last flight

An old Wirraway takes to the air again today — but without a pilot.

The Wirraway serial number A20, has been the pride and joy of Mr Tom King, of East Preston, and has rested in the backyard of his house for the past three years.

Now he has swapped it for a Japanese wartime Zero, and today the Wirraway was lifted from the backyard by mobile crane for transport to Victoria Dock. It will go to New Ireland as deck cargo.

FLEW IN WAR

The crane had to lift the plane over two garages built since Mr King got the plane.

The old Wirraway served during the war. Mr King spent two years rebuilding it.

It will replace the Zero, which has been preserved on the Kavieng air strip, 150 miles northwest of Rabaul, as a war-time memorial.



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