

Searchers find *SUN THUR. 170780 p.7* 1943 wreck

A CANBERRA man has achieved his life ambition of finding the RAAF Wirraway in which his pilot brother died in 1943.

Mr Jerry Sebastian, a Defence Department photographer, ended his hunt last month when he and a group of RAAF men reached the crashed plane in the peaks of the Araluen Valley, near Canberra.

The RAAF Wirraway crashed there — killing his brother, Flying Officer W. H. Sebastian, and Squadron Leader D. K. Matthews — while on an artillery observation mission on September 16, 1943.

Mr Sebastian said yesterday his brother was attached to a training school near Canberra at the time of the crash.

Rescuers had removed the bodies and salvaged some components from the crash but they left the rest of the Wirraway.

Mr Sebastian said he was a small boy at the time of the crash and had made it his life's ambition to find and visit the site.

He said he and other RAAF personnel had tried several times to walk into the area but the terrain was too rugged.

The problem of reaching it was solved when a 90-year-old man who lived in the crash area drew a rough map of the Mer-cambene Creek area.

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