

CRASH INTO SEA

R.A.A.F. Man Killed

MELBOURNE, Monday.—Sergeant John Stuart Padman, 28, formerly of Balaklava, South Australia, is believed to have been killed when a two-seater R.A.A.F. service aircraft crashed into the sea off Laverton during exercises to-day.

Pilot-Officer Frederick Arthur Watchorn, 20, formerly of Frankston, swam ashore and was admitted to hospital in a serious but not dangerous condition.

A bulletin issued by the Department of Air to-night said that Sergeant Padman was missing, believed killed, but did not give any details of the crash.

Sergeant Padman enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in February, 1940; Pilot-Officer Watchorn enlisted in Melbourne last November, and was commissioned in July. Both men are single.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
7.10.41

Vain Search For Missing Airman

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.—No trace has been found of Sergt. J. S. Padman, observer, who has been missing since an R.A.A.F. plane crashed into the sea off Wilson's Promontory yesterday.

The plane crashed in Bass Strait, not far from the east side of the rocky Promontory.

Rescue parties today found the plane some distance from the scene of the crash. They marked the spot with a buoy.

The pilot of the plane, Pilot-Officer Watchorn, of Melbourne, who was admitted to hospital with serious injuries, was flown to Laverton hospital today.

Despite injuries, Watchorn swam some distance after the crash. He was picked up by two Army men in a rowing boat.

Nearly "Done In"

The soldiers said they saw the plane dive into the sea. The observer jumped out.

"The plane hit the water. As the splash subsided, I saw a man swimming weakly," said one of the soldiers.

"We rowed over to him and pulled him into the boat. He was nearly done in," he added.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 8.10.41

One Missing In Air Crash

MELBOURNE, Monday.—An Air Force plane from Laverton crashed into the sea, near Wilson's Promontory, during exercises today.

The observer, Sgt. George Stuart Padman, 28, formerly of Balaklava, South Australia, is reported missing, believed killed.

The pilot, Pilot-Officer Frederick Arthur Watchorn, 20, formerly of Frankston, Victoria, was injured, but swam ashore.

An Air Department bulletin says he was admitted to hospital in a serious but not dangerous condition.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 7.10.41