

Two Trainees Die In Crash

Two trainees were killed when a single-engined R.A.A.F. plane crashed from about 3000 feet at Harefield, near Wagga, yesterday.

THEY were Leading Aircraftman George Christian Hale Wilkinson (23), formerly of Brisbane, and Leading Aircraftman Allan Slatyer (19), formerly of Southport, Queensland.

Wilkinson attended Junction Park State School and Brisbane Grammar School. An outstanding scholar, he finished first for the whole of Queensland in a final law degree examination. He enlisted in March, 1941. He was an Interstate tennis representative.

Slatyer was educated at Springsure State School and Brisbane High School. He was for four years a clerk at the Brisbane City Electric Light Co. An all-round sportsman, he enlisted in January, 1941. His father served in the A.I.F. in the last war.

DAILY MIRROR 30.8.41

TWO DIE IN R.A.A.F. PLANE DIVE

Two trainees were killed when a single-engined R.A.A.F. plane spun to the ground from about 3000 feet at Harefield, near Wagga, yesterday.

They were:—

Leading - Aircraftman George Christian Hale Wilkinson (23), formerly of Brisbane.

Leading-Aircraftman Allan Slatyer (19), formerly of Southport (Queensland).

Wilkinson attended Junction Park State School and Brisbane Grammar School. An outstanding scholar, he finished first for the whole of Queensland in a final law degree examination.

At the time of his enlistment in the R.A.A.F. on March 2, he was an interstate tennis representative.

He was one of the finest players produced in Queensland. His greatest strength was his service, and on one occasion he aced Adrian Quist 13 times in one match.

He won his interstate spurs as a member of Queensland Linton Cup team.

His last appearance in a major tournament was at the Warwick championships last year, when he and his partner took the doubles. He won more than 40 major titles in Queensland.

He entered a Service Flying Training School on June 30.

Slatyer, after being educated at Springsure State School and Brisbane High School; was for four years clerk in the Brisbane City Electric Light Company.

He enlisted in the R.A.A.F. on January 3, and entered a training school on May 5.

SUN(SYDNEY) 30.8.41

Two die in R.A.A.F. crash

JUNEE, Saturday. — Two R.A.A.F. trainees were killed when a single-engined plane dived into a dam at Harefield, near Wagga, yesterday.

The plane went into a spin at 3000 feet, and appeared to be straightening out when it crashed.

The victims were:

Leading Aircraftman George Christian Hale Wilkinson, 23, formerly of Brisbane.

Leading Aircraftman Alan Slatyer, 19, formerly of Southport, Queensland.

Wilkinson and Slatyer, only occupants of the plane, were on a training flight.

W. T. Douglas, station hand employed at Overdale station, said the plane flew over the station homestead at "an unusually slow speed."

Four Spins

It banked to the left at about 3000 feet, and went into a spin. After four spins the plane swung to the right and nose-dived into the dam.

Douglas lifted Wilkinson out of the machine, but he was dead.

Douglas was unable to get Slatyer out, but released his safety belt and parachute gear.

Descendant of King Edward III. Killed In Wagga Air Crash

From Our Special Correspondent.

BRISBANE, Saturday.

HAD he lived, George Christian Hale Wilkinson would have carried on in Hurricanes, Spitfires, Blemheims, his family's fighting tradition which began with bows and arrows at Hastings.

He died in a plane crash at Wagga while on an R.A.A.F. training flight on Friday.

According to his father, Mr. Mathew Hale Wilkinson, Ruivigny's "The Plantagenet Roll of the Royal Blood" shows that his son was the last of a family line which can be traced back to King Edward III.

Tracing the family history from 1312, Ruivigny covers every generation of the family to the present day. It records that the family seat at Alderley, in Gloucestershire, is re-

ferred to in the Doomsday Book as "Arelie."

Young George Wilkinson was only 23 when killed. He was training enthusiastically for the Law when war cut short his career. Several brilliant legal personages have sprung from Hales over past centuries.

One of the outstanding names is Sir Mathew Hale (1609-1675), Lord Chief Justice of England.

He offered his services as barrister to King Charles during the latter's trial, but Parliament refused Charles the right to accept them.

Sir Mathew, with one assistant, was given the enormous task of assessing the damage after the Great Fire of London in 1666, and history says, "Never was his judgment proved incorrect."

When Nazi planes bombed Lincoln's Inn recently, fire damaged the interior, but the picture of Sir Mathew was untouched.

Commander Edward Mathew Hale, R.N., was a fellow-midshipman of

the late King George V. and the Duke of Clarence. This Hale was in charge of the landing parties during the King's visit to Australia.

A second cousin of Wilkinson is C. Aubrey Smith, the actor and sportsman, who signed contracts to make pictures on condition that his work would not interfere with his watching cricket Tests between England and Australia.

One ancestor, it is recorded, was a gentleman after the manner of Sir Francis Drake, and was assisted by Queen Elizabeth in carrying on a spot of piracy on the side.

This Hale died in battle, and the story is that a daughter took command of his ship, built up a small armada of pirate vessels, and became known as the "She Pirate."

History relates that she once received a dainty handkerchief as a present from Good Queen Bess, used it once very loudly, and threw it away.