

A20-506

Sgt A R Ruge (406424) 24 Y.O.

No. 2 OTU

LtC E H Moore (15508) 33 Y.O.

'For years my grandmother mourned the loss of her son and suffered until her death'

# Search to end a family's 60-year anguish

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT: Air-gunner George Moore.



By DANIEL DASEY

AS a dashing young pilot in 1942

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Transferred back to Australia, the 23-year-old airman and star footballer couldn't wait to get back into service for his country.

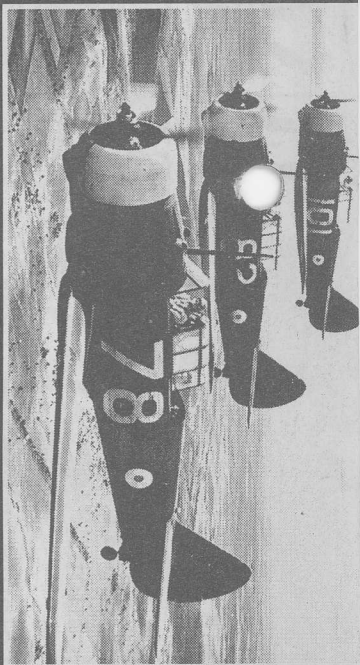
But during a training exercise in southern NSW, tragedy struck and his Wirraway aircraft crashed and disappeared into the murky depths of Lake Victoria.

Now nearly 60 years after the loss, a salvage team hopes to finally locate and recover the remains of Sergeant Ruge and his passenger, air gunner George Henry Moore.

The plan has the backing of the pilot's relatives who hope it will put an end to a sad chapter in the family history.

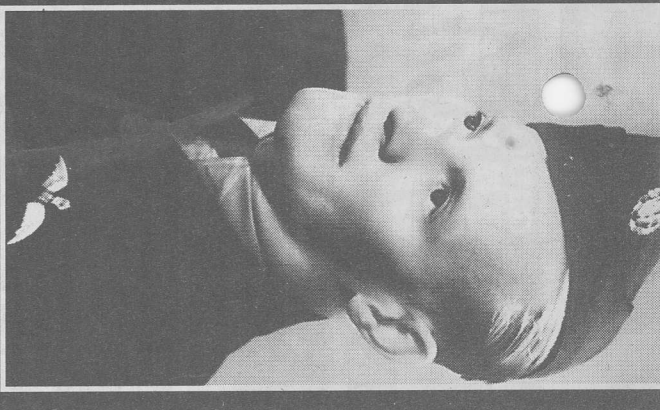
"My family and I have many unanswered questions about his death and are tormented by the fact that he has never been located and returned to us," Arthur Ruge's nephew Graham has written in support of the proposed salvage bid.

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## WIRRAWAY: AN ALL-PURPOSE WORKHORSE

- The Wirraway was a two-seat general purpose aircraft and could carry up to 225kg of bombs.
- It was used by the RAAF between 1939 and 1958 and by the RAN between 1948 and 1957.
- The aircraft had a top speed of about 350km/h and a maximum altitude of just over 7,000m.
- It was used by RAAF squadrons 4, 5, 21, 22, 23 and 24 and in training schools.



LOST IN LAKE: Pilot Arthur Ruge.

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The saga involving the missing airman began on June 23, 1942.

Sergeant Ruge, from Queensland, and his Sydney-based passenger George Moore, taxied their Wirraway aircraft down an airfield in Mildura

for exercises over Lake Victoria, about 60km away.

Leading Aircrewman Moore had recently migrated to Australia from Ireland and his brother Thomas was a Catholic priest in the Goulburn area. Once over the lake the pair struck

trouble. Inexplicably their aircraft stalled and spiralled into the water as a civilian witness watched.

Both pilot and passenger are believed to have died on impact.

Searches over the following month failed to uncover significant traces of

Aviation history enthusiast Yanya Squires, who is hoping to locate the plane, said she and her partners in the proposed salvage had been unable to find living relatives of George Moore.

Arthur Ruge's family, however, have written a letter of support. Ms Squires hopes will convince the Lake Victoria Advisory Committee to allow a recovery project to proceed.

"I ask for your help in putting a stop to the extended grieving my family has experienced," Graham Ruge wrote to the committee.

The lake is heritage-listed and Ms Squires and her partners in the operation, two aircraft restorers, also require the consent of the local Aboriginal people.

Ms Squires said modern salvage techniques would be provided free for the project by a South Australian business and included sidescan sonar and underwater magnetometry.

Ms Squires, from Jerrabomberra in the ACT, said that while the men died 60 years ago recovering their bodies was still important to their families.

"I spent 12 years in the army and if it was me I would want somebody to look for me," Ms Squires said.

People with information on the missing aircraft can contact the search team by e-mail at [gammfilms@ln.ozemail.com.au](mailto:gammfilms@ln.ozemail.com.au).

## Test case on union dues

EMPLOYERS in NSW may soon have to collect union dues from workers' pay packets.

The NSW Labor Council is taking a test case to the State Industrial Relations Commission, starting on Wednesday.

If the unions win, NSW will become the first State where employers are compelled to act as collectors for union dues.

At present, many employers have a voluntary arrangement

with individual unions to deduct fees at source and pass them on to the union concerned.

This week's test case may turn a voluntary procedure into a compulsory right for workers backed by an enforceable award.

Workers in five awards - nurses, teachers, electrical contract workers, registered club employees and general construction workers from the Australian Workers' Union - are party to the application.

## Jockey Lisa Francis dies

THE racing industry was in mourning yesterday after the death of popular Toowoomba jockey Lisa Francis.

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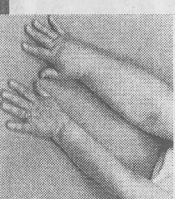
## Lymphoedema

Lymphoedema is a chronic swelling of a limb, or body part, and is caused by inadequate lymphatic function. It occurs most commonly following the treatment of cancer of the breast, skin, uterus, prostate or bowel. It can also occur secondarily to injury or infection, or if you are born with fewer lymphatics than normal. The swelling may lead to loss of mobility, pain and infection. It is a lifelong problem that the person must learn to manage and live with.

A day of information and discussion on lymphoedema is being presented by the Lymphoedema Support Group of NSW on Saturday the 6th April. The program includes sessions on why lymphoedema develops, what worsens it, and self management workshops.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

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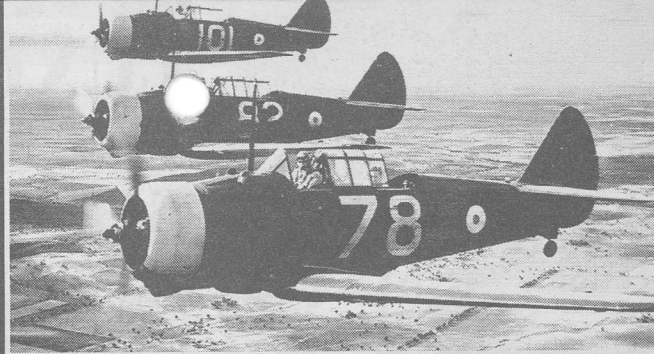
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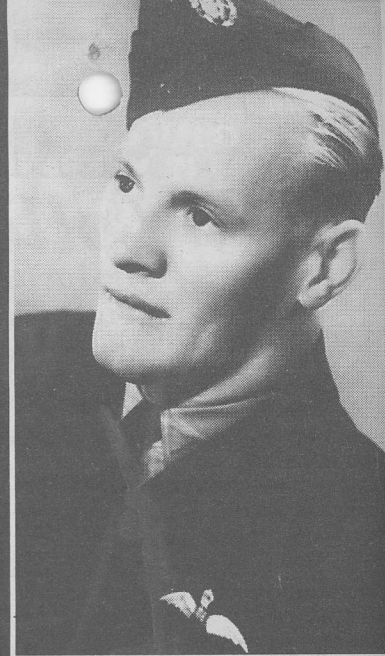
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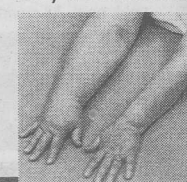
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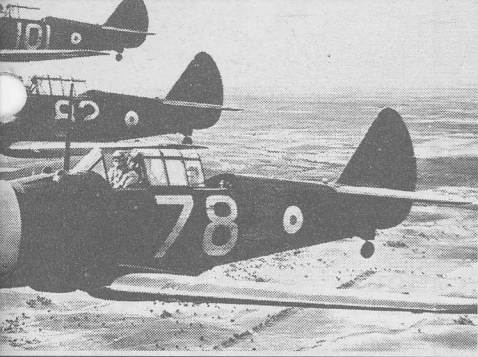
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Support Group includes session on living with it, and self management.

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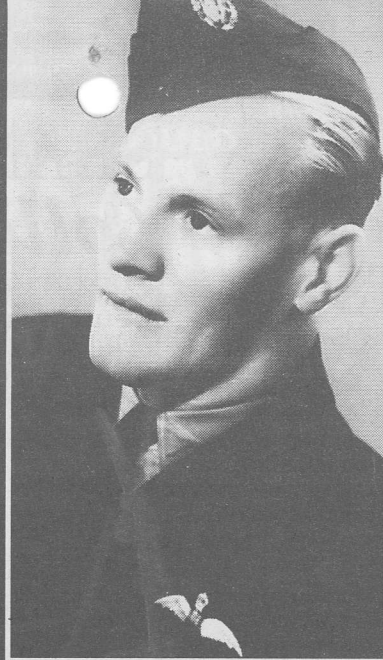
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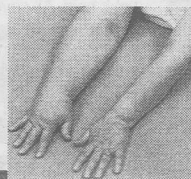
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