

FATAL AIR CRASHES

SEVEN DEAD; FOUR INJURED.

Four R.A.A.F. Planes.

Four fatal air crashes occurred in New South Wales yesterday. Seven members of the R.A.A.F. were killed and four others were injured.

There were no survivors of three of the accidents. Two occurred when two single-engined R.A.A.F. planes crashed in bad weather near Wagga. Each plane had two occupants, who were killed.

The third accident occurred when a twin-engined training aircraft made a forced landing near Cootamundra and hit a tree. The pilot was fatally injured. Four R.A.A.F. passengers who were in the plane were injured but are not in danger.

In the fourth accident, two members of the Point Cook Service Flying Training School were killed when a single-engined training plane crashed at Morocco West, 23 miles north-east of Deniliquin, late yesterday afternoon.

The casualties were as follows:—

KILLED.

Acting Flight-Lieutenant Alan Murchison Woodhill, aged 25, married, formerly of Richmond (N.S.W.).

Flying-Officer William Wynyard Adrian, 28, single, formerly of Annerley, Brisbane (Q.).

Leading Aircraftman Walter Osborne Graham, 23, single, formerly of Melrose (S.A.).

Leading Aircraftman Henry James Phipps, 25, married, formerly of Chatswood, Sydney (N.S.W.).

Leading Aircraftman Norman Hollis Rogers, 21, single, formerly of Marrickville, Sydney (N.S.W.).

Flying-Officer Morris Garnet Woods, 25, single, of Adelaide.

Leading Aircraftman William Thomas Northway, 21, single, of Bendigo.

INJURED.

Aircraftman Reginald Harold Dick, wireless operator, 23, single, formerly of Bethungra (N.S.W.). Shock and abrasions.

Leading-Aircraftman Henry John Carter, observer trainee, 33, married, of Charleville (Q.). Broken arm and shock.

Leading-Aircraftman Gordon Archibald Roberts, observer-trainee, 32, single, formerly of Edgely, Sydney (N.S.W.). Shock and abrasions.

Leading-Aircraftman Horace Reginald Williams, observer-trainee, 26, married, formerly of East Brisbane (Q.). Shock and abrasions.

Both the machines which crashed near Wagga were flying in heavy mist and fog.

Flight-Lieutenant Woodhill and Leading-Aircraftman Graham were engaged on a cross-country flight, when they encountered unusually bad weather. Their machine crashed a few miles west of Wagga.

Mr. J. Findlay, of Lindisfarne, Malebo, who found the plane crash about 400 yards from his house, said that when he reached the scene of the accident in company with Mr. Herbert Drought, who also lives in the neighbourhood, the machine was in flames. They dragged the occupants from the machine, but both were then dead.

CRASH NEAR FOREST.

The second machine, in which were Leading-Aircraftmen Phipps and Rogers, was flying out instrument flying practice when it crashed in bad weather near Wagga in Carabost State Pine Forest, which covers several hundred acres. Heavy banks of clouds shrouded the forest. The machine crashed into a hill.

When Mr. J. Thomas and a party of men reached the scene the plane had been burned. Medical evidence showed that the occupants had been killed before the plane caught fire.

The twin-engined plane which crashed near Cootamundra took off on a navigation exercise.

It is thought that one engine cut out, and the pilot, Flying-Officer Adrian, attempted to land the plane in a heavily-timbered paddock a mile north-west of the aerodrome.

7 Die In 4 R.A.A.F. Crashes

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Two of the crashes occurred near Wagga, one near Cootamundra, and one near Deniliquin. The victims were:—

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Near Wagga:

Acting-Flight-Lieut. Alan Murchison Woodhill, 25, married, formerly of Richmond (N.S.W.).

Leading-Aircraftman Walter Osborne Graham, 23, single, of Melrose (S.A.).

Leading-Aircraftman Henry James Phipps, 25, married, of Chatswood.

Leading-Aircraftman Norman Hollis Rogers, 21, single, of Marrickville.

Near Cootamundra:
Flying-Officer William Wynyard Adrian, 28, single, of Annersley, Brisbane.

Near Deniliquin:
Flying-Officer Maurice Garnet Woods, 25, single, of Adelaide.

Aircraftman William Thomas Northway, 21, single, of Bendigo (Vic.).

INJURED

Near Cootamundra:

Aircraftman Reginald Harold Dick, wireless operator, 23, single, of Bethungra (N.S.W.), shock and abrasions.

Leading-Aircraftman Henry John Carter (observer trainee), 33, married, of Charleville (Qld.), broken arm, and shock.

Leading-Aircraftman Horace Reginald Williams (observer trainee), 26, married, of East Brisbane, shock and abrasions.

Leading-Aircraftman Gordon Archibald Roberts (observer trainee), 32, single, of Edgely, shock and abrasions.

In Heavy Mist

All four men killed near Wagga were members of the Wagga R.A.A.F. training school.

Flight-Lieutenant Woodhill's plane crashed on the Lindisfarne property of Mr. J. Findlay, at Malebo, about seven miles from Wagga.

Mr. Findlay said he heard the plane overhead about 9.30 a.m., but could not see it for heavy mist.

"A few minutes later," he said, "I heard it crash with a terrific noise. It raced to the top of the hill and I saw the wreckage of the plane in flames about 400 yards away from my home."

"My neighbor, Mr. Herbert Drought, helped me to drag the men from the plane. They were dead."

At 9 a.m. Mr. William Thomas, manager of the Murrumbidgee State Pine Forest, about 40 miles from Wagga, heard the plane in which Phipps and Rogers were killed flying above the fog. He could not see it.

A few minutes later he heard a crash and explosion.

With his men he found the burning wreckage of the plane on top of a high hill known as Creek Site Hill.

Crashed Into Tree

The plane which crashed near Cootamundra, was piloted by Flying-Officer Adrian, who had a crew of four.

It is thought that one engine cut out while the plane was on navigation exercises.

The pilot attempted to land in a heavily timbered paddock a mile north-west of the aerodrome.

The machine collided with a tree

A20-220

A20-172

A33-2

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Near Cootamundra:
Flying-Officer William Wynyard Adrian, 28, single, of Annerley, Brisbane.

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It is thought that one engine cut out while the plane was on navigation exercises.

The pilot attempted to land in a heavily timbered paddock a mile north-east of the aerodrome.

The machine collided with a tree and Flying-Officer Adrian was fatally injured.

Flying-Officer Woods and Aircraftman Northway were killed when a single-engined monoplane from Point Cook training school, Victoria, crashed into a creek at Morago, 23 miles south-east of Deniliquin, late this afternoon and burst into flames.

A20-220

A20-172

A33-2

A20-272

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

21.6.41

DAILY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

21.6.41