

RAAF man missing a week after crash; mystery over search

PERTH, Saturday.

ONE of two airmen who bailed out from an RAAF plane last Sunday 70 miles south of Southern Cross is still missing in country described as inhospitable.

He is Flight-Sergeant C. L. King.

Pilot of the plane, Warrant-Officer A. J. Ingram, landed safely by parachute and is now back with his unit.

Address of neither man is given by the authorities.

Great secrecy by the RAAF has surrounded this flight in a non-operational area.

It was not till last night, six days after the plane was missing, that the RAAF told the public and made an appeal for help.

The area south of Southern Cross, on the railway to Kalgoorlie, is inhospitable, but there are numerous prospectors moving about and within reasonably easy access. Some of these are believed to have radios.

It is felt that their help early in the search would have been readily given, and may have proved invaluable.

For some days the newspapers have been pressing the RAAF for details of the missing plane. In the belief that a widespread appeal may have brought results.

Up till last night RAAF officials indicated that there might be no release whatever of the story, but unexpectedly an appeal for civilian help was made in a broadcast last night.

A Service plane and land party has been searching for King, but many feel that a more prompt search by more experienced bushmen might have averted what may prove to be a tragedy.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING FLIER ABANDONED

PERTH, Friday.—The R.A.A.F. has announced that it has abandoned its search for Flight-Sergeant King, as it is now thought no reasonable chance exists of finding him.

Flight-Sergeant King bailed out of a damaged plane 70 miles south of Southern Cross on August 27.

The pilot of the plane, Warrant-Officer A. J. Ingram, also bailed out. He landed safely and has returned to his unit.

The Western Australian Police Commissioner (Mr. Hunter) said today that the police search for King would be continued.

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