

A46-32

AIR COLLISION OVER TOWN

One Pilot Killed

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One pilot was killed instantly and another bailed out safely when two R.A.A.F. aircraft collided at 2,000 feet early on Thursday morning.

Pilot-Officer A. Watkins, of Euroa, Victoria, was killed. The other pilot suffered minor injuries and was later admitted to the station hospital.

The crash was seen by many people who had been watching the aircraft as they manoeuvred. The wreckage fell in open country, about a mile and a half east of a western town. It hit the ground with a loud report.

Accompanied by a third, the two aircraft had gone up from an operational training station in New South Wales. They passed over the western town in line astern, practising formation flying.

When the planes collided, one exploded, and onlookers saw the parachute of the pilot in the top plane blossom out. He landed about 300 yards from the crashed planes.

An ambulance arrived within ten minutes.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

9.12.44

PILOT KILLED IN PLANE COLLISION

A trainee pilot was killed and another slightly injured when two R.A.A.F. planes collided while flying near a western New South Wales airfield on Thursday.

The trainee killed was Pilot-Officer A. Watkins, Euroa, Vic.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 9.12.44

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