

PILOT'S SKILL SAVED BOMBER

With his heavy bomber skimming the ground at 75 miles an hour, an Air Force pilot to-day displayed remarkable skill and coolness, when, after a tyre blew out, he managed to save the machine from crashing.

But for his ability, he and his three comrades in the plane would probably have been injured.

With two other Avro-Ansons, the bomber was coming in to land at the Inverell aerodrome, to take part in an aerial pageant.

The other two planes landed safely, but the third was caught in a sudden strong gust of wind and the tyre on the port side blew out.

Displaying remarkable skill, the pilot managed to pull the plane out of its skid. The machine swung round and portion of the undercarriage was damaged.

The four occupants escaped without a scratch. Air Force officers will examine the plane again to-morrow to ascertain the full damage.

The organisation of the air pageant which marked the official opening, was in the hands of the members of the Inverell Glider Club and the Inverell sub-branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A. Arrangements were made for the attendance of 22 aeroplanes but owing to the weather disturbance experienced in many parts of the State a number of machines were forced to abandon the flight to Inverell. There were eleven machines in attendance but, unfortunately, only ten were able to take part in the pageantry.

One R.A.A.F. Anson bomber, piloted by Flight Officer Braithwaite, had the undercarriage torn off when it was landing on Saturday morning, but this misfortune was in no way due to the surface of the aerodrome.

Visitors commenced to arrive at the ground shortly after the appearance of the first plane on Saturday morning and when the official opening was performed there was a particularly large attendance.

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