

FIVE R.A.A.F. MEN DIE IN CRASHES

Five members of the R.A.A.F. were killed in air crashes this week.

Two were killed when an aircraft crashed during a training flight in New South Wales on Tuesday. They were:—Pilot-Officer Gilbert Francis Daw, aged 22, formerly of Wongan Hill (W.A.); and Flight-Sergeant Leonard Breen, 32, formerly of West Preston (V.).

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The aircraft was flying through heavy cloud and rain, and broke formation before the crash. The cause of the accident is obscure.

Sergeant Ralph Beverley Cassidy, 31, married, of Burwood, N.S.W., wireless air gunner, and Sergeant Leonard Arthur Lufton, 25, single, of Sandgate, Qld., were killed, and Sergeant John Hewston Sawrey, 23, single, of Hawthorn, Vic., pilot, died later of injuries received when a plane crashed at Mallacoota, Victoria, during a training flight.

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Sergeant Cassidy, who was born at Ilford, N.S.W., was a barrister before enlisting in the R.A.A.F. in May 1941, and was well-known as a cricketer and footballer. He was trained in New South Wales and South Australia.