

Farmer finds plane wreck

BRISBANE. — The wreckage of a plane found on Saturday in scrub south of Bundaberg could be that of a wartime crash.

A local grazier found the wreckage almost covered with leaves and dirt.

A police spokesman said it must have been "a hell of a crash" and parts of the plane were apparently buried in the ground.

He said the plane apparently disintegrated on impact.

The joystick seemed to be larger than a normal light plane column, indicating that it was probably a military plane. It had one or two radial engines.

SUN 080578 p 11

Police saw no trace of bodies but they will not search the wreck until it has been checked today by air safety officers from the Transport Department.

The wreckage was hidden in the scrub.

The crash scene is inland from Woodgate and about 48 km south of Bundaberg between Bundaberg and Howard.

8.5.78: SUN

Wreckage 'from wartime crash'

SUN 100578 p 13

BRISBANE. — A Melbourne man said yesterday that wreckage found near Bundaberg at the weekend was probably that of a RAAF training plane which crashed, killing two pilots, during World War 2.

The man, a CSIRO employee who does not want to be named, rang Bundaberg police yesterday and told them he led a salvage team which recovered the bodies of the pilots after it crashed in late 1943 or early 1944.

He said the Avro Anson crashed in a swamp while on a flight from the RAAF service training centre at Bundaberg. "We spent nine days

clearing the wreckage, burnt the plane and buried it," the man said.

"We also had a Tiger Moth spotting the wreckage for us. Unfortunately it crashed, too, but luckily no one was hurt."

RAAF investigators checking on the wreckage, which was found by a grazier on Saturday, will try to verify the man's claims.

— BRIAN BURKE

10.5.78: SUN

Wrecked plane identified

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SUN
p. 15

BRISBANE. — The wrecked plane, found near Bundaberg at the weekend has been identified as a RAAF Avro Anson which crashed in 1944.

A RAAF spokesman said yesterday the engine plate showed that the plane — DJ 236 — was one which crashed on December 8, 1944, killing two trainee pilots.

The victims were Leading Aircraftmen E. F. Pontey, 18, and R. A. Rose, 19. They were attached to the 8th Secondary Flying Training School, which operated at Bundaberg, about 390 km north of Brisbane, during World War 2.

The victims were buried at Bundaberg Cemetery three days after the crash.

Another trainee pilot in Bundaberg at the time of the crash was involved with the plane's identification this week. He is Wing-Cdr. Bob Redfern, an engineering officer now attached to Amberley Air Base. — BRIAN BURKE.

12.5.78: SUN