

5 Killed In N.S.W. Air Crash

Four RAAF men and a Waaf corporal were killed when carrying out non-operational navigational training exercises in northern NSW.

The aircraft burnt the house into which it crashed, and those killed were:

Flt.-Sgt. James Ian Noble, pilot, of Inverell, NSW.

W/O William Henry Osborne, wireless operator, of Dairy Meadows, NSW.

LAC Roy Cecil Edwards, trainee navigator, of Toowoomba Queensland.

LAC William John Ervin, trainee navigator, of Trundle, NSW.

Corporal Joan May McCormack, passenger, of Richmond, NSW.

SUN (SYDNEY) 12.9.44

WAAAF AND FOUR AIRMEN KILLED IN CRASH

Four airmen and a W.A.A.F. corporal were killed when an aircraft crashed into a house and set fire to it in northern New South Wales. The aircraft was on a navigational training flight.

The victims were:—

Flight-Sergeant James Ian Noble, pilot, of Inverell.

Warrant-Officer William Henry Osborne, wireless operator, of Dairy Meadows.

L.A.C. Roy Cecil Edwards, trainee navigator, of Toowoomba (Q.).

L.A.C. William John Erwin, trainee navigator, of Trundle.

Corporal Joan May McCormack, passenger, of Richmond.

The tragedy occurred about 150 yards from the home of Sergeant Noble's parents.

Eye-witnesses say that the plane flew low apparently to salute the pilot's mother and father. They said

that there was an explosion and one wing appeared to break off.

The aircraft crashed in a lane near the weatherboard home of Rex Eimer. When the plane struck the ground it toppled over on to the house and burst into flames.

RESIDENTS HELPLESS

Residents ran to help the occupants, but they were driven back by the intense heat as the house and aircraft burnt fiercely. The house was unoccupied.

Part of the wreckage of the aircraft fell into the yard of the pilot's parents. They tried to rescue their son and the others with him in the plane, but were driven back by the heat.

SMH 13/9

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 13.9.44

FOUR FLIERS AND W.A.A.F. KILLED

FOUR R.A.A.F. men and a W.A.A.F. corporal were killed while on non-operational navigational training exercises in northern New South Wales.

The dwelling house into which the aircraft crashed was destroyed by fire.

Those killed were Flight-Sergeant James Ian Noble (pilot), Inverell, N.S.W.; W/O William Henry Osborne (wireless operator), Dairy Meadows, N.S.W.; L/A/C Roy Cecil Edwards (trainee navigator), Toowoomba, Q.; L/A/C William John Ervin (trainee navigator), Trundle, N.S.W.; Cpl. Joan May McCormack (passenger), Richmond, N.S.W.

DAILY MAIL 13.9.44

PLANE CRASHES NEAR PILOT'S PARENTS' HOME

Four airmen and a W.A.A.F. were killed when an R.A.A.F. plane crashed at Inverell, 150 yards from the home of the pilot's parents.

Parts of the plane were picked up in the yard of the home. The pilot's wife and two children live in Inverell.

DAIRY TELEGRAPH 13.9.44

The plane crashed into a house, setting it on fire.

There was no one in the house at the time.

Those killed were:—

Flight-Sergeant James Ian Noble, pilot, of Inverell, N.S.W.

Warrant-Officer, William Henry Osborne, wireless operator, of Dairy Meadows, N.S.W.

L.A.C. Roy Cecil Edwards, trainee navigator, of Toowoomba, Queensland.

L.A.C. William John Erwin, trainee navigator, of Trundle, N.S.W.

Corporal Joan May McCormack, passenger, of Richmond, N.S.W.

Exercise Flight

The plane, which was carrying out non-operational navigation exercises, began to circle over Inverell at 7.45 a.m. on Monday.

It came down over a well-built-up area to within about 200 feet of the ground, when the right wing collapsed.

The plane fell on a house owned by Mr. Rex Eimer, recently discharged from the Army.

At the time Mr. Eimer was working on his father's farm, and his wife and baby were staying with Mrs. Eimer's parents.

Parents of the dead pilot are Mr. and Mrs. John Noble.