

Second plane missing

An R.A.A.F. aircraft is missing on a flight from Wagga to Melbourne.

It is the second R.A.A.F. plane reported missing on a cross-country flight in the last fortnight.

The plane, flown by Pilot-Officer Allan William Green, 25, of Harvey (W.A.), left Wagga on Wednesday morning, and has not been reported since.

It was last heard near Murrundindi, about 12 miles north of Healesville (Vic.).

A ground party is searching the district.

Planes based at a Victorian station are assisting in the search.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

2.5.43

7-28A

BELOW: Constable
Ron Fletcher (left) and
Senior-Constable Charles
Cameron, of the Heales-
ville Police; dragging
out the cockpit
from
the wreckage.



PLANE WRECK SOLVES WAR MISSION MYSTERY

By PETER HOWELL, Sun reporter with the search party.

A RUSTED and broken rosary, a rotted parachute and a miledewed left shoe were all that searchers found yesterday when they looked for the pilot of an old wrecked plane in dense bush on a mountain near Healesville.

RAAF experts with the search party identified the plane as a RAAF P43 Lancer which disappeared on a routine flight between Wagga and Laverton on April 30, 1943.

The pilot is believed to have been Pilot-Officer Dennis Green of Western Australia, who was attached to a photographic reconnaissance unit.

The Lancer was one of 10 sent to Australia under a lend-lease agreement with the U.S. These planes were forerunners of the famous Thunderbolt — a single-engine American fighter plane.

The wreckage was first reported on Monday by two timber fellers, Fred Newcombe of Warburton, and Bill Pritchard, of Healesville.

Yesterday's official search party of 25 was

sent out to check on their report.

It found remains of the plane scattered over half-a-mile of almost impenetrable country, on the side of Gordon Gully, 20 miles from Healesville along the Myer's Creek road.

Wreckage in the trees

The remnants of the plane were so torn and twisted that the searchers at first could not be sure that it was a RAAF plane.

This point was settled when they found a small square of aluminium with the tattered remains of the RAAF roundel.

We were searching thick undergrowth when the rosary was found near the remains of the unoponed parachute.

When Senior-Constable Charles Cameron, officer-

in-charge of the Healesville police station, went to pick up the parachute it fell apart in his hands.

The plane must have hit the side of the mountain at a terrific speed.

Sections of the fuselage were still clinging to 200ft. high trees, and a Browning type .303 machine-gun had been twisted in half by the force of the impact.

No trace of pilot

No trace of the pilot's body was found.

The mountainside is one of the steepest I have seen.

A tractor set off to take newspapermen as far as possible towards the scene of the crash, but had to abandon the attempt when it had gone less than half way into the gully.

In another few years the dense undergrowth would

have enveloped the wreckage.

Already after 15 years large sections of the plane were covered in moss and slime where the seepage had drained across the metal.

Two Air Force officers who accompanied the search party, Flight-Lieutenants Ron Gillan and D'Este A. J. Kibble, said that all planes which had crashed over Victoria had now been accounted for.

"The only ones missing are those that crashed into Bass Strait," said Flight-Lieut. Kibble.

Early reports suggested that the wreckage might have been that of the ill-fated Southern Cloud, which disappeared on a flight from Sydney to Melbourne in 1931, with eight people on board.



Map of the area in which the "Lancer" crashed.



← WRECKAGE of the plane (arrow) more than 40ft. up a tree. It had been there 15 years. → A Lancer plane shown in flight.

Bush hid secret for 15 years



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The pilot is believed to have been Pilot - Officer Dennis Green, of Western Australia, who was attached to a photographic reconnaissance unit.

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Already after 15 large sections of plane were covered in moss and slime the seepage had run across the metal.

Two Air Force officers who accompanied the search party, Lieutenants Ronald and D'Este A. J. said that all planes had crashed over the area.

"The only ones are those that crashed in Bass Strait," said Lieut. Kibble.

Early reports that the wreckage had been that of a Southern which disappeared on flight from Sydney in 1931. There were 10 people on board.

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Experts with search party found the plane as an AF P43 Lancer disappeared on a flight between Wagga and on April 30.

Pilot is believed to be Pilot - Officer Green, of Western Australia, who was attached to a photographic reconnaissance unit.

Lancer was one of 10 planes sent to Australia under a lease agreement with the U.S. These planes were the only ones of the Thunderbolt — a single-engine American plane.

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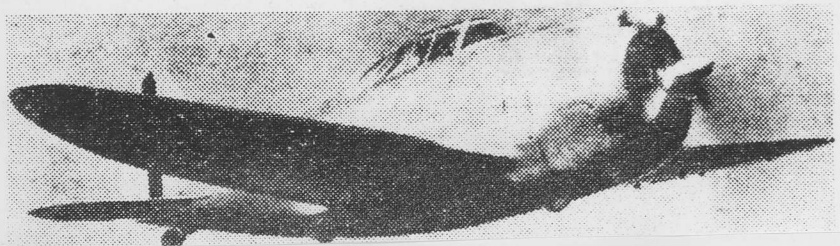
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