

PLANE CRASH IN STREET

Onlookers Rescue Three R.A.A.F. Men; One Killed

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday.—An airman was killed and three others were injured when an R.A.A.F. medium-bomber crashed at Broadmeadow on September 11.

The airman killed was Flight-Sergeant William Milton Trengrove, of Spalding, South Australia.

He was the observer of the plane.

Flight-Sergeants Ian MacFarlane, the pilot, Kevin Richard Toye and Joseph Barker Lenihan, were injured.

Trengrove died in Newcastle Hospital a few hours after the crash.

At an inquest today into Trengrove's death, MacFarlane said the plane had been flying near Newcastle when mechanical trouble had made a forced landing necessary.

He had jettisoned all the petrol and had headed the plane for an aerodrome at Broadmeadow.

Crashed Into Trees

MacFarlane said that he had found it impossible to land the plane correctly, and that it had struck two trees near the aerodrome.

He had been thrown clear, and remembered having called to a crowd of people who had gathered to keep away from the plane.

Aubrey Arthur Lock, of O'Mara Street, Broadmeadow, said he had been playing tennis near the aerodrome at Broadmeadow when he had seen a large plane pass overhead.

Two trails of what appeared to be white smoke had been streaming from the machine.

"The plane made a right-hand turn, apparently intending to land on the drome," Lock said.

"I lost sight of it for a few seconds behind some trees, and then I saw it hit the trees and burst into flames. As it came down it struck the side of a deep storm-water channel and skidded on to the roadway, coming to rest on the tramline in Lambton Road, Broadmeadow.

"I ran to the wreckage, which was burning fiercely, and saw two members of the crew still in the plane.

Wreckage Explodes

"They appeared dazed. One was bleeding from a wound in the head.

"I assisted one of the crew out of the plane and handed him over to some spectators. Then I helped to get the other man from the plane.

"While I was assisting them there was an explosion. We took the men to the side of the road, where one of them fainted.

"I said to the other man, 'How many coppers have you got?' and he said 'Three.'

"Thinking there was another man in the plane I ran back to the wreckage and tried to break open the tail section, but was not successful.

"Someone then told me there were two other members of the crew near the stormwater channel. These men had been thrown clear after the plane struck the trees."

The District Coroner (Mr. A. G. Chiplin) returned a finding of accidental death.

He said he wished to commend anyone who had helped to remove

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