

Death Of Air Hero

Aircraftsman Daniel Cecil Purdy, 28, died in Randwick Military Hospital last night after his 25th plastic operation.

Purdy was the hero of an R.A.A.F. Hawker Demon crash at Llandillo, 13 miles from Penrith, on June 14, 1938.

Although his face was badly burnt in the crash, Purdy tried desperately to drag his dying mate, Sergeant-Pilot Ralph Dunstan Pomerey, 26, from the blazing plane.

His heroism won him the Royal Humane Society's Medal.

Purdy has been in Randwick Hospital since the crash.

Doctors had almost completed a series of skin-grafting operations on his face.

A doctor at the hospital said last night that the staff was very proud of Aircraftsman Purdy.

"He had endured a great deal, but had come through his operations cheerfully," the doctor added.

DAILY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

1-10-40