

A7-41

3/ SEARCH PLANES

ACCIDENT AT ALICE SPRINGS

Melbourne, January 18.
 Advice was received by the Air Board yesterday that one of the Royal Australian Air Force aeroplanes, which made a successful search in Central Australia recently for the missing airmen, and which was in charge of Flying-Officer Dalton, had had a forced landing near Alice Springs on Friday, as the engine seized, and had been damaged. The secretary to the board (Major Coleman) said it was probable that a new engine would have to be sent to Alice Springs. It was expected that two of the four machines which made the search would return to Melbourne in a few days.

SA PAPER 1-31

A7-41 Cirrus Moth: Search plane crashed at Alice Springs January 1931. On 6 December 1932 in the same plane General Blamey's son Flying Officer Charles Middleton Blamey was killed in a crash at Richmond. Airman Plumb escaped with minor injuries

**MOTH PLANE
CRASHES**

**General Blamey's
Son Killed**

STRIKES FENCE



Flying-Officer Blamey, photographed recently, while he was watching aircraft evolutions at Point Cook.

SYDNEY, Tuesday. — Flying-Officer Charles Middleton Blamey, son of the Commissioner of Police in Victoria (Major-General T. Blamey), was killed instantly at Richmond today when a Moth plane in which he was engaged in forced landing practice struck a fence.

An investigation revealed that when the plane was travelling at 65 miles an hour and was about to land, the wheels hit a fence and the machine, pushing forward on to its nose, was telescoped. Blamey was in the front seat and the engine tore away from the mounting and crushed his chest.

Airman Plumb, Flying-Officer Blamey's mechanic, had a remarkable escape from death. His injuries consisted only of cuts and shock.

Blamey, who was only 22, had been attached to the R.A.A.F. No. 3 Squadron at Richmond for eight or nine months, and had been in the Air Force for two years. He was graduating as an instructor.

The tragedy occurred about a mile from the aerodrome, in an area known as Charley's Paddock. This paddock has a surface particularly well adapted to forced landings. Blamey and his mechanic had been in the air for only a few minutes.

SEARCH FOR FATHER

Air Force men and local residents raced to the scene and, from the tangled mass, recovered Blamey, who was dead, and Plumb, who had not lost consciousness.

General Blamey was ignorant of his son's death until shortly before one o'clock, when he called at the New South Wales Club for lunch. He had been staying for a few days with his sister, Mrs Hotchkiss, at Rockdale, but last night he stayed at the club, anticipating an early morning start for Melbourne.

His plans were altered, however, and he transacted business in the city.

It was thought that he had gone to the Test match, and the Commissioner of Police (Mr Childs) visited the cricket ground personally and searched for him, and had a notice placed on the scoring board for the Victorian Police Commissioner to call at the members' gate.

This notice resulted in General Blamey's brother-in-law, Mr Hotchkiss, calling at the gate, where he met Mr Childs. They then went to the New South Wales Club, where they learned that a few minutes earlier General Blamey had returned and been advised of the tragedy by a friend.

Mr Childs placed his car at the disposal of his colleague, who, with his brother-in-law, was motored to Richmond.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

The Chief Secretary (Mr Macfarlan) has sent a message of condolence to Major-General Blamey.

**ENGAGED 2 MONTHS
AGO**

**Young Airman Was
Duntroon Graduate**

The Air Board announced with profound regret receipt of information that Flying-Officer Blamey had been killed.

Flying-Officer Blamey was a graduate of Duntroon Royal Military College. He joined the Air Force in 1930, and qualified as a pilot officer in the same year. He obtained his wings in 1931.

The Minister for Defence (Sir George Pearce), who is at Canberra, has been officially notified of the accident.

The dead airman's mother is in ill health.

Last October, the engagement of Flying-Officer Blamey to Miss Joan Silcock, of Glenhantly Road, Hawthorn, was announced.

The day after he graduated at Duntroon, Flying-Officer Blamey entered the Point Cook Flying School and began his practical flying training. He was then posted to No. 3 Squadron, R.A.A.F., at Richmond, New South Wales.

This was his first flying accident. General Blamey has one other son who is a pupil at Melbourne Grammar School.

PLANE CRASHES

Son of Gen. Blamey Killed

MECHANIC ESCAPES

SYDNEY, Tuesday.

Flying Officer Blamey, son of General Blamey, the Commissioner of Police in Victoria, was killed instantly at Richmond today when a Moth plane in which he was engaged in forced landing practice, crashed from about 300 feet. Airman Plumb, Flying Officer Blamey's mechanic, had a remarkable escape from death. His injuries consisted only of cuts and shock.

Flying Officer Blamey, who was only 22 years of age, had been attached to R.A.A.F. No. 3 Squadron at Richmond for eight or nine months, and had been in the Air Force for two years.

The tragedy occurred about a mile from the aerodrome in the area known as "Charley's Paddock." This paddock has a surface particularly well adapted to forced landings.

FELL LIKE A STONE

Flying Officer Blamey and his colleague had been in the air only a few minutes. Eye-witnesses declare that the Moth, when coasting down, seemed suddenly to stall, then stop in the air. A second later its nose tipped and the machine fell like a stone to the ground.

Air Force men and residents rushed to the scene, and from the tangled mass recovered Flying Officer Blamey, who was dead, and Plumb, who had not lost consciousness.

General Blamey, it was stated, is in Sydney, and this morning was thought to have gone to the Sydney cricket ground to witness the Test match. Mr. Shields, the N.S.W. Commissioner of Police, requested the cricket ground authorities to have a notice placed on the score board asking the general to communicate with him.

12-32 (WA PAPER)

KILLED IN PLANE CRASH



Flying Officer Charles M. Blamey, son of the Victorian Commissioner of Police (General Blamey), who was killed yesterday at the Richmond aerodrome when the military plane he was flying nose-dived and struck the ground

12-32 (WA PAPER)

FATAL NOSE-DIVE.

YOUNG PILOT KILLED.

Engine Stalls in Mid-Air.

SYDNEY, Dec. 6.—An aeroplane accident in which the pilot was killed and a mechanic escaped with slight injuries occurred at Richmond aerodrome this morning. Flying-Officer Charles Middleton Blamey, son of the Victorian Commissioner of Police (General Blamey) had his skull fractured, and was killed instantly. Mechanic Aircraftsman Plumb was taken to the Richmond hospital suffering from slight injuries. He had a remarkable escape from death. He was treated for cuts and shock.

Blamey and Plumb had left the flying field at Richmond for a field about a mile away, which is considered ideal for practising forced landings. The airmen had only left the ground a few minutes when the accident occurred. The machine was about 200ft. above the paddock when it began to glide towards the earth. It stalled, and with desperate suddenness the nose pointed to the ground and the machine crashed. The sound of the impact was heard a mile away. The plane was badly damaged and the occupants of the machine were caught in the wreckage. Blamey struck his head on the fore part of his cabin and was killed instantly. Officials from the aerodrome ran to the scene and extricated Plumb, and the Richmond ambulance took him to hospital.

One of the men who rushed to the assistance of the airmen said that Blamey, who was in the front seat, had been jammed in the wreckage. The whole of the front part of the plane had been shattered. The propeller had been smashed into small fragments and the seat on which Blamey had been sitting had been crushed by the engine.

Officials at the aerodrome immediately opened an inquiry into the tragedy.

Flying-Officer Blamey was the elder son of General Blamey. He had been in the Royal Australian Air Force for two years and had been attached to No. 3 Squadron, Richmond, for about nine months. He held a pilot's certificate and was finishing the training course for an instructor's certificate when he met his death. In 1927 he entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and graduated to the rank of lieutenant three years later. General Blamey is on a visit to Sydney. He learned of the tragedy when he visited the New South Wales Club for luncheon.

12-32 (WA PAPER)

CRASH 6-12-32

