

Night Flight R.A.A.F. TRIP HAS UNLUCKY END

Two Planes in Mishaps at Essendon

CRASH INTO HEDGE

APPARENTLY misjudging the landing ground at Essendon aerodrome, after a practice night flight from Laverton Flying School, two of three R.A.A.F. DH Gipsy Moth planes had mishaps when they landed at the northern end of the aerodrome on Saturday night. The third plane landed safely. None of the crews was seriously hurt, although one pair was badly shaken.

After a successful flight from Laverton, the three planes, in formation, prepared to land at the aerodrome, where ground flares were burning to guide them to the runways.

Instead of approaching the actual landing ground, the squadron was at the northern end of the aerodrome. One of the planes, containing Flight-Lieutenant F. R. W. Scherger and Sergeant Cooper, struck a boxthorn hedge in landing and overturned.

-A7-51

Wings Smashed

THE wings were smashed and the under-carriage damaged. Prompt action by the crew averted the danger of fire from the wing-tip flares. Scherger was bruised and Cooper had his face cut. Both were badly shaken.

The second plane, with Squadron-Leader Summers aboard, swerved to avoid a tree and nearly crashed into another nearby. A number of branches was swept away, but the plane landed safely in a paddock.

-A7-43

The third, in charge of Flying-Officer F. Wright, encircled the two planes for a while and then made a safe landing at the aerodrome. Yesterday the machine, which struck the hedge was dismantled and taken back to Laverton on an Air Force tender. The other plane took off successfully from the paddock and was flown to Laverton.

An official investigation will be made.

CRASH 9.6.34

A7-43 Cirrus Moth: A7-43 and A7-51 crashed at Essendon while formation landing. A7-51 was piloted by Flight Lieutenant F R W Scherger with Sergeant Cooper as passenger and A7-42 was flown by Squadron Leader Summers. A third, flown by Flying Officer F Wright landed safely.