

FRIENDS SAW R.A.A.F. MEN CRASH.

Inquest at Wagga.

WAGGA, Thursday.

Evidence that friends of two R.A.A.F. men saw them crash to their death was given at an inquest on Pilot-Officer Ronald Dodgshun, of Melbourne, and Ian Gordon, of Manly, Sydney, at Wagga to-day.

The Coroner, Mr. Hugh Oates, found to-day they were accidentally killed when their plane struck a tree and crashed at Malebo, 10 miles west of Wagga, on February 16. He recommended that in future aircraft should be flown higher.

Flight-Lieutenant R. E. Allman said instructions had been given that low flying should be limited to no less than 200 feet. Training in low flying was necessary.

Mr. Raymond Fletcher, manager of Walteela Station, said he and his family and Miss Mary Collocott, a friend of Dodgshun's, watched the plane flying over low country towards the homestead, which was on high ground. When it was close to the house the pilot appeared to climb, but at that moment the plane struck a pine tree. The wing was torn off and the machine crashed.

Dodgshun had said the night before that he would be flying in that direction, and when flying towards the homestead he had waved.

Dodgshun and Gordon were both attached to the Wagga R.A.A.F. school.

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