

# LOSTR.A.A.F. PLANE IS SIGHTED

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

An R.A.A.F. plane which has been missing since late yesterday is reported to have been sighted from the air on a plateau south-west of Townsville.

There were no signs of the two men who had been in the plane, but water and food were dropped.

A ground party set out immediately but because of the difficult nature of the country a considerable time must elapse before it can reach the spot where the aircraft is believed to have been located.

The weather has been good, but it must be at least to-morrow before the fate of the fliers will be known.

The men in the plane were Pilot-Officer Alfred Stuart Hermes, 28, and Pilot-Officer Bruce Horace Anderson, both of Sydney.

The Air Board said to-day that the fliers were carrying out a local exercise to provide instrument flying practice.

Pilot-Officer Hermes was born in Adelaide, and educated at St. Peter's College and Sydney University, and Pilot-Officer Anderson was educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School.

They entered the R.A.A.F. on the same day—March 4, 1940—and both graduated at Point Cook on August 28. Late in October, they were posted for flying duties at Townsville.

SUN (SYDNEY) 23.11.40

# MISSING FLIERS SAFE.

## Walked to Rescue Party.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.

Pilot-Officer Alfred Stuart Hermes and Pilot-Officer Bruce Horace Anderson, both of Sydney, who were reported missing yesterday after their aircraft had failed to return from a training flight near Townsville (Queensland) late on Friday, are safe.

When the men were met yesterday afternoon by a ground party on its way to the spot where R.A.A.F. search planes had located the missing aircraft, they were making their way out of the bad country south-west of Townsville, in which engine trouble had forced them down on Friday.

They were only slightly injured, and are now back at their station.

The flight on which the men had been engaged was a local one to provide instrument flying practice.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

25.11.40