

AIR FORCE CRASHES

Three Fliers Killed

Three members of the R.A.A.F. were killed in aircraft crashes at the week-end. Three other R.A.A.F. men were saved by their parachutes.

Failing to come out of a spin yesterday afternoon, a single-engined training aircraft crashed in a cultivated paddock at Mangoplah, 15 miles south of Wagga.

On Saturday morning, two training aircraft collided in the air near the You-Yangs hills (Victoria).

Those killed in the Mangoplah crash were:—

Flying-Officer STANLEY NORMAN PROWD, 25, single, of Windsor, Victoria.

Aircraftman GEORGE MACKINLEY FRAZER, 20, single, of Bexley, New South Wales.

In the collision near the You-Yangs, Leading-Aircraftman Halcombe George Brock, 23, of Semaphore, South Australia, was killed.

The three other occupants of the planes in the collision, who parachuted to safety, were: Leading-Aircraftman Morris McGuire, 22, of North Caulfield, Melbourne; Leading-Aircraftman Colin Fallon, 23, of North Adelaide; Leading-Aircraftman John Distin Hall, 22, of West Beach, South Australia.

Hall suffered minor injuries.

The plane in which Flying-Officer Prowd and Aircraftman Frazer were killed was from the flying training school at Forest Hill, Wagga, and was on a routine test flight. Eye-witnesses said that it crashed in a paddock on Mr. C. E. Klimpsch's farm.

Mr. F. W. Klimpsch, brother of the owner of the farm, said to-night that the plane caught fire when it crashed. He was a quarter of a mile away at the time.

"With my nephew, Harold Klimpsch, and Michael Armstrong, I rushed to the scene, but we were unable to give any assistance," he added.

Flying-Officer Prowd joined the Air Force as a cadet in January, 1940. After elementary training at Archerfield (Q.), he graduated in May, 1940, from Point Cook as a pilot. After duty with squadrons at Laverton, he was promoted to Flying-Officer and posted for flying duties at Wagga in November, 1940.

Aircraftman Frazer enlisted in July, 1940, and took his recruit course at the School of Technical Training, Ultimo (N.S.W.). He completed his course as an aircraft fitter at the Engineering School, Melbourne.

All the men involved in the collision near the You-Yangs were trainees at an intermediate and advanced training school near Melbourne.

Brock was a passenger in one of the planes, which were engaged in formation flying when they collided. He was a well-known sportsman, having played with the Port Adelaide Australian Rules football team.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

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TWO DEAD IN AIR CRASH

WAGGA, Sunday.—Two air-men from Wagga R.A.A.F. Training School were killed today, when their plane crashed into a cultivated paddock midway between Mangoplah and Yerong Creek.

The victims were:—

Flying - Officer Stanley Norman Prowd, of Windsor, who had been attached to Wagga air school since November last.

Aircraftman First Class George Mac-Kinley Frazer, of Bexley, Sydney, who had been attached to the school since April last.

Prowd took off from Wagga school this afternoon to engage in routine manoeuvres. Frazer was a passenger.

Went Into Spin

About 2.30 p.m. eye-witnesses saw the plane go into a spin and crash into a paddock belonging to C. E. Klimpsch, of Thornleigh, Yerong Creek.

Death is believed to have been instantaneous.

F. W. Klimpsch, brother of C. E. Klimpsch, said he watched the plane flying for about half an hour.

Suddenly the plane appeared to be in trouble, and went into a spin, he said.

"I was about a quarter of a mile away, and, with my nephew, Harold Klimpsch, and Michael Armstrong, I rushed over to the plane, but was unable to rescue the men," said Mr. Klimpsch.

TELEGRAPH 4-8-41