

'PLANE NOSE-DIVED

Pilot and Pupil Crashed at Point Cook

YOUNG FLYING OFFICER KILLED

Flying Officer Stewart E. Mailer was killed, and Cadet Officer Alan M. Charlesworth injured in an aeroplane crash at Point Cook Flying School yesterday.

They were returning to land after having been up for half an hour in an Avro plane when the accident occurred.

Charlesworth, who was being instructed by Mailer, was in charge of the machine, when it was seen to get into a nose-spin and dive to earth.

The machine was badly smashed, and Mailer was dead by the time the occupants were extricated.

Charlesworth, whose escape is regarded as miraculous, was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital and then transferred to the Caulfield Hospital; he is suffering from a severe gash on the head and cuts on the face.

MACHINE WAS TESTED

Wing-Commander Williams, First Member of the Air Board, stated yesterday that the Avro machine had been tested and reported O.K. by Flying Officer Brownhill just before the fatal flight.

Though hundreds of pupils have been instructed at Point Cook during the past fourteen years, there has been only one fatal accident previously—in 1921—when Leading-aircraftsman Bert Whicker crashed and was killed.

Mailer was described by brother officers as a pilot of exceptional merit, and a very fine man.

They find it difficult to understand how the accident could have happened with a pilot of such calibre in the machine, which was considered one of the finest Avros in the place.

The crash occurred at what is known as the western 'drome.

Several planes were up at the time, and many men were working about the station, but no one except Adjutant F. L. Lukis actually saw the smash.

Lukis, under the customary official rule, declined yesterday to state what he saw.

VICTIM'S RECORD

Flying Officer S. E. Mailer had only been connected with the R.A.A.F. since November, 1924. Prior to that he gained his air experience as a member of the R.A.F. from 1918. He was a holder of the Air Force Cross and the Goosport certificate of instruction.

Educated at Sydney Grammar School, Mailer was in England when the war broke out, and secured a commission with an infantry regiment. He went to France as a company commander. He was 34 years of age, and was well liked by his brother officers.

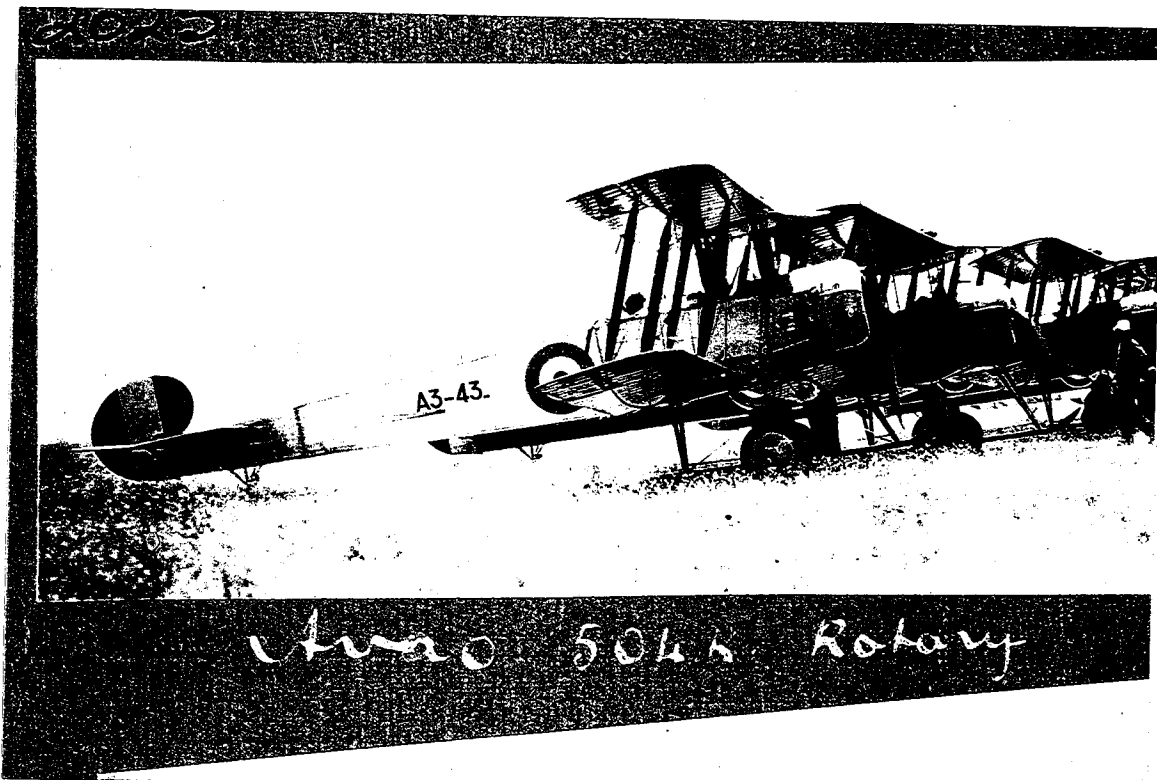
On Tuesday night he and his wife attended the performance of The Green Goddess at the King's Theatre.

DUNTRON BOY

Cadet Officer Alan M. Charlesworth is a graduate of Duntroon, who transferred to the R.A.A.F. in June last year. He is only 21 years old, and was champion athlete of Duntroon while there.

A3-28 Avro 504 crash March 25 1925 at Point Cook, killing instructor Pilot Officer Stewart E Mailer and injuring Cadet Officer A M Charlesworth, enquiry ordered by Flight Commander R Williams to be presided over by Squadron Leader H N Wrigley, the second fatal accident at Point Cook since its establishment in 1911.

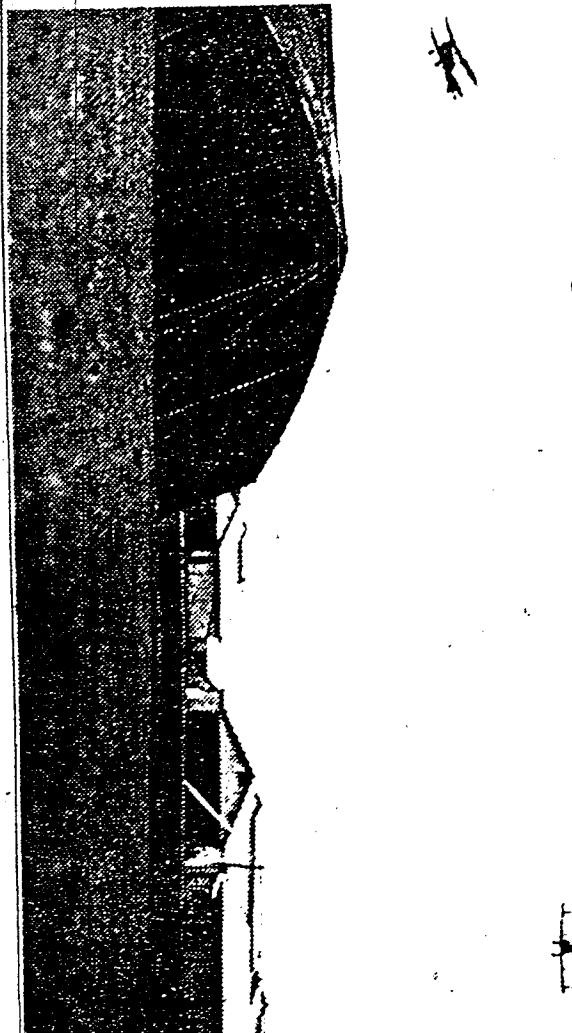
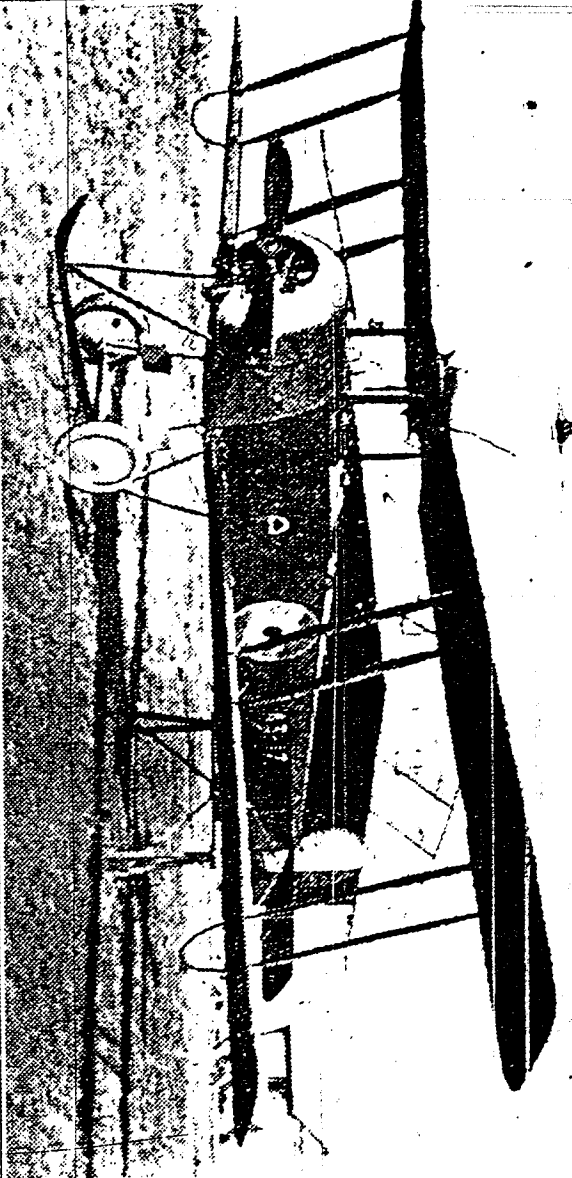
26.3.25 SUN: P. 2



Avro 504's Rotary

POINT COOK 21.1.27

THE ARCADE, THURSDAY, MARCH 27
AVIATION FATALITY AT POINT COOK FLYING SCHOOL.



When an Avro aeroplane (similar to that illustrated on the left) crashed at the Point Cook military flying school yesterday morning, Flying-officer S. E. Mailer was killed and Flying-officer A. M. Charlesworth injured. The officers were bringing the aeroplane to earth when it "nose-dived" into a paddock at the rear of the hangars, one of which is depicted in the photograph on the right.

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