

# TWO KILLED IN AIR FORCE CRASH

PLANE DIVES INTO TREE AT  
31 180 M.P.H.

## CAMP TRAGEDY

Melbourne, February 26.

A pilot and a mechanic were killed instantly this morning when a Royal Australian Air Force Wapiti plane crashed at a speed of 180 miles an hour into a tree in the Seymour military camp lines.

Hundreds of troops, who were in training at the camp at the time, saw the terrible tragedy. The names of the two airmen killed, pilot and mechanic respectively, are:—

- Flying Officer H. G. Scoullar.
- Aircraftsman J. F. Youn.

The accident occurred at 11.15 a.m. while he machine was diving from a height of 500 feet at a crew of Lewis anti-aircraft gunners who were at practice. Two dives had been successfully carried out; but, during the third, the plane failed to rise and, sweeping past the No. 1 gun, crashed into a large gum tree. It was smashed to pieces, the

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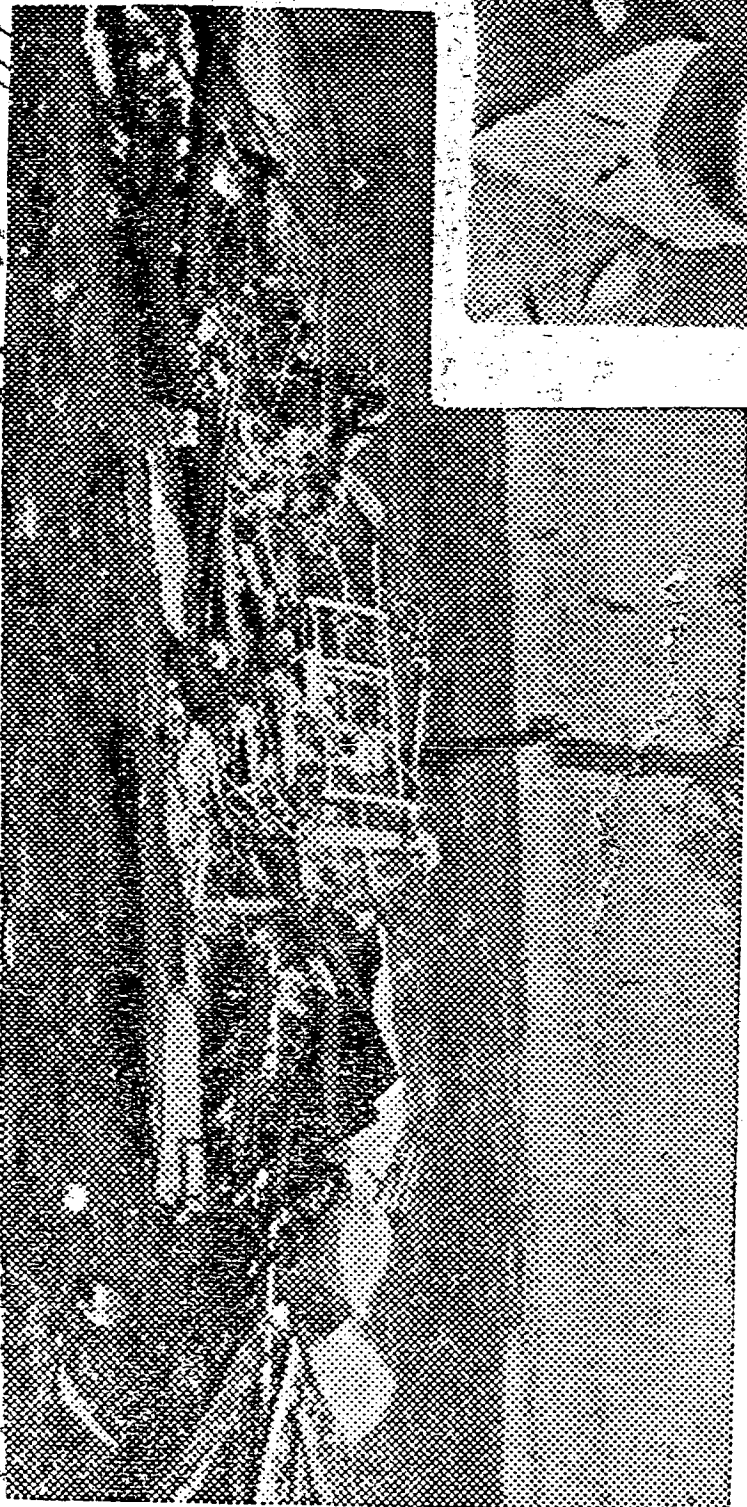
CRASH 26.2.31

45-20 February 1931 Flying Officer H.G. Scoullar and Aircraftman J.F. Youn killed during manoeuvres at Seymour Military Camp



**ALL THAT WAS LEFT** of the Air Force Wapiti plane, which hit some trees and came down in flames during manoeuvres at Seymour military camp, Victoria. Flying-Officer H. G. Scoullar (top left) and his mechanic were killed instantly.

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SA PROEL 2.31

# PLANE CRASHES AT 180 M.P.H.

180 M.P.H.

Two Killed

## MACHINE IN FLAMES AFTER HITTING TREES

(From Our Special Representative)

SEYMOUR, Thursday.—In full view of hundreds of training troops, an Air Force Wapiti plane, flying at 180 miles an hour, crashed in flames in the Military Camp lines today. The pilot and observer were killed instantly. They were:—

Flying Officer Hiram George Scoullar, 21.

Aircraftsman John Frederick Yourn, 29, married, of Salisbury Street, Moonee Ponds.

The crash occurred at 11.15 a.m. when the plane was carrying out its last practice for the morning. This comprised a dive from a height of 500 feet at a speed of 180 miles an hour at a Lewis gun anti-aircraft brigade practice school. The school had set up its gun on the top of a hill 300 yards away from the artillery lines.

Two dives had been completed, the plane approaching to within 100 feet of the gun group. On the third effort, however, the machine apparently failed to lift. It swept past 20 feet from the gunners and hit, with terrific force, three 40-foot gum trees 10 yards away.

### TORN TO PIECES

The machine was torn to pieces. It dived between two of the trees. The wings, tail, and undercarriage were carried away. These flew in all directions, and were picked up in pieces in a radius of 400 yards of the tree.

The fuselage, containing the pilot and observer, continued madly on, and burst into flames before it hit the ground 100 yards down the hill.

A deep hole was torn in the ground. The engine was wrenched away, cylinders and accessories hurtling free. The fuselage, in a blaze, rolled another 100 yards, and the engine spun 50 yards further still.

### GRASS ON FIRE

Nothing could be seen of the pilot and observer after the plane first hit the ground. A huge volume of smoke went up from the blazing petrol and oil. In addition, dry grass on the hill was immediately fired and, fanned by the strong, hot wind, raced across the training field.

When the fire died down sufficiently, members of the anti-aircraft school saw pilot and observer lying several yards from the fiercely blazing wreckage.

They quickly pulled the observer away from the fringe of the fire and smoke, but he was beyond help. It was several minutes before the body of Scoullar could be reached. His clothes were still burning.

Hundreds of troops were on the scene a few minutes after the crash, and beat out the grass fire with the leather fire beaters always carried on parade. They could not approach the fuselage for nearly 25 minutes. Eventually the fire pickets put it out with the camp field fire-cart. There was only a tangled mass of iron and steel left.



WRECKAGE OF THE AIR FORCE WAPITI PLANE which crashed in flames in the Military Camp lines at Seymour yesterday. The pilot and mechanic were killed instantly.

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