

SYDNEY AIR CRASH.

MOTH 'PLANE STRIKES TREE.

Pilot and Mechanic Injured.

SYDNEY, Feb. 25.—After taking off from the Richmond Aerodrome on a trial flight this afternoon, a new D.H. Moth aeroplane struck the top of a tree and crashed. Flight-Lieutenant Anderson was in charge of the moth, and he was accompanied by Air-Craftsman Colless. Both were injured, and the latter is in a critical condition. The aeroplane was only recently purchased by the Royal Australian Air Force, and had been in use for a little more than a month. In previous tests it had proved satisfactory. To-day, however, it did not rise with the usual alacrity.

Several Air Force officers were watching the machine from the Aerodrome, and saw the accident. The 'plane was badly damaged. Those who had seen the crash rushed to the scene, and quickly extricated the pilot and mechanic from the wreckage. Anderson was bleeding freely from numerous cuts about the face, hands and legs, but he quickly recovered. Colless was in a critical state. His right leg and arm had been broken, and he was suffering from concussion, extensive abrasions, and bruises. The injured men were taken to the Richmond Hospital.

Flight-Lieutenant Anderson is a Royal Air Force officer. He arrived in Australia from England only a month ago, and, after being stationed at Point Cook, Victoria, he came to Sydney last week. He had, however, made several flights from the Richmond Aerodrome.

WEST AUSTRALIAN 26.2.29

AEROPLANE'S CRASH.

Death of Colless.

SYDNEY, Feb. 26.—Air-Craftsman Lance Colless, who was injured when a D.H. Moth aeroplane crashed at Richmond yesterday, died this morning in the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick. Flight Lieut. Anderson, who was the pilot of the aeroplane and who also was injured, but less severely, was slightly improved to-day. He is now in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

The aeroplane, which was the property of the Air Force, when taking off from the Richmond Aerodrome failed to rise sufficiently to avoid a tree, and it crashed through the branches on to the side of the road.

One of Anderson's injuries is a severe cut across the left eye. It is feared that the sight of this eye may be lost. When the aeroplane landed, Anderson was imprisoned in the damaged machine, and it was necessary to saw through the fuselage before one of his arms could be released.

WEST AUSTRALIAN 27.2.29

A7-12 Cirrus Moth: Crash on 25 February 1929 near Richmond NSW. Flight Lieutenant Anderson and Aircraftman Collesse injured. Collesse died on February 26. Anderson had severe left eye injuries.