

Propeller goes: 2 save plane

By PETER JOHNSON

THE starboard propeller sheared off a Dakota plane and ripped through the fuselage near East Sale RAAF base on Wednesday.

Two Air Force pilots nursed the badly-damaged plane back to the base.

They calmly followed emergency drill after the propeller chewed through the fuselage in several places, about 22 kilometres south-east of the base.

RAAF Sq-Ldr. Brian Synnot was teaching Flight-Lt. Mike Lavercombe single engine flying.

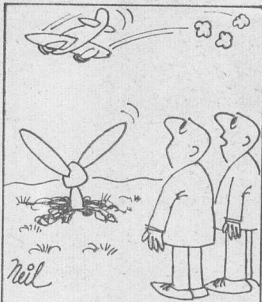
The incident happened at 4000ft. after the port motor had been stopped, restarted, and was warming up.

Just before the motor warmed up, the pilots heard a loud bang, and the starboard propeller broke away.

A RAAF official said the pilots followed emergency procedures "right the way through" and this got them back.

Neither pilot was hurt.

Both men are Central Flying School instructors.



THERE GOES OUR
CRACK DEFENCE FORCE

The Dakota, expected to be out of action up to seven weeks, will be repaired at East Sale base.

The Dakotas are used for multi-engined conversion and refresher training courses.

A RAAF search party of about 40 airmen yesterday found the propeller on a farm near where the incident happened.

A RAAF court of inquiry into the incident started yesterday.

11.7.75 FRIDAY
SUN.