

PLANE STRIKES WIRES.

Tail Controls Torn Away.

SAFE "CRASH" LANDING.

A light R.A.A.F. training plane made a forced landing in a maize field near Yarramundi Bridge, eight miles from Richmond, yesterday, after it had struck high tension and telegraph wires, which tore off part of the tail.

Two Air Force officers were in the machine, but neither was injured.

When the aircraft struck the wires there was a loud tearing noise when its tail-plane, comprising rudder and elevators, was torn off.

The rudder governs direction of flight, and the elevators both descent and ascent. The pilot only had the ailerons left. These maintain lateral control, providing there is sufficient forward speed.

By skilful use of the ailerons the pilot made a "crash" landing among the maize, which acted as a cushion.

The crew of the aircraft were:—Pilot-officer John Walter Wedgewood Piper, 23, of Darriman, via Sale (Vic.), who was pilot; and Flight-Lieutenant Lloyd Moffat, 21, 12 Victoria Road, Malvern, Victoria, observer.

A statement issued last night by Central Area Headquarters, R.A.A.F., Point Piper, said: "Pilot-officer Piper was making a surprise low-flying attack on troops when the aircraft came into contact with the wires. He was able to prevent a serious accident by keeping the aircraft under control until landing in the cornfield."

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UNHURT IN PLANE CRASH

A light two-seater R.A.A.F. plane made a pancake landing in a cornfield at Yarramundi Bridge, eight miles from Richmond, yesterday.

Its rudder had been torn off by overhead wires. The pilot and passenger were uninjured.

The pilot was Pilot-Officer John Walter Wedgewood Piper, 23, Darriman, Victoria, and the passenger Flight-Lieutenant Lloyd Moffat, 21, Victoria Road, Malvern, Victoria.

In landing 600 yards from where the aircraft touched the wires, a wing was torn off and the propeller damaged.

Four-foot-high corn cushioned the landing.

The plane was making a surprise low-flying attack on military troops doing weekend manoeuvres when its tail brushed against high-tension and telegraph wires.

Dropped Flour Bombs

Earlier it had dropped flour bombs on the troops, who were practising cover taking in air-raids.

Pilot-Officer Piper showed great skill in averting a dive-crash.

Miss Peggy Uhrig, on holiday at the Jude Ranch, Castlereagh, said:

"I heard a terrific roar from the plane engine, which was almost directly overhead, as it dived at the troops.

"I saw the plane's tail strike the telephone wires about 150 yards from where I was standing.

"I expected the plane to crash, but gained height and flew on for about quarter of a mile.

"Then it turned and flopped down in the corn field.

"The soldiers who had been taking part in the manoeuvres ran to the plane and helped the two airmen out."

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