

Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), Thursday 22 May 1941, page 1

TWO READING AIR FORCE MEN

Crash Near Archerfield

Two R.A.A.F. officers were killed in an aircraft accident at Archerfield aerodrome last night. They were: —

Squadron-Leader Roy Cecil Phillips, 45, married, of Toowoomba, and Flight-Lieutenant John William F. Collins, 35, married, of Beaudesert. The aircraft was privately owned by Flight-Lieut. Collins, who was off service duty at the time of the accident, and with Squadron-Leader Phillips as passenger he was taking off for a flight when the accident occurred. The plane burst into flames, and when helpers arrived was a total wreck. Both occupants appeared to have been killed instantly.

People two miles away from where the machine came down heard it crashing through the trees and saw it burst into flames. After police from Moorooka arrived the bodies were taken to the Air Force hospital at Archerfield. Squadron-Leader Phillips was the commanding officer of the Archerfield Elementary Plying Training School. He served with distinction in the last war and was awarded the M.O. and the D.F.C. Leading Sportsman

Flight-Lieut. Collins was one of the best known private pilots and sporting airmen in Australia. He won the speed test in the Brisbane-Adelaide Air Race in the South Australian centenary celebrations in 1936. The only son of the late Mr. W. Collins and of Mrs. Collins, of Nindoinbah, Beaudesert, Flight-Lieutenant Collins was educated at King's College, Parramatta, and Oxford. He took up flying 10 years ago and owned several planes, including the Vega Gull he used in the air race. He did most of his travelling from his property at Beaudesert by plane. Flight-Lieut. Collins was a member of the Brisbane and Royal Queensland golf clubs, and was a former skiing champion of Australia. He was married on September 13th 1933, at St. Mark's Church, Darling Point, Sydney, to Miss Margaret Ferguson (youngest daughter of the then Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sydney, Alderman and Mrs. R. C. Hagon). Mrs. Collins, who is a keen racing enthusiast, has lately been doing war work in Sydney.