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AIRMAN KILLED

CRASH AT AUCKLAND

DOWN INTO THE SEA

COMPANION RESCUED

Auckland, April 18.

One officer lost his life and another escaped with minor injuries when a Tiger Moth aeroplane from the Royal New Zealand Air Force base at Hobsonville crashed into Rangitoto Channel near Castor Bay this afternoon. The survivor was brought ashore by a party of men of the Royal New Zealand Artillery who saw the crash and swam nearly half a mile in all to the airmen's assistance. The victims were:

Killed.

Pilot Officer Bertrand William Butler, aged 25, single, son of Mr. J. P. Butler, Invercargill. A brother is Brother Patrick, of the Sacred Heart College, Auckland.

Injured.

Pilot Officer Maurice Harry Hoy, aged 21, single, son of Mr. H. Hoy, 35 Grafton Road, Roseneath, Wellington. He received shock and abrasions, and, after being attended by a doctor, was admitted to hospital. He has a brother serving with the Air Force at Whenuapai.

Both had recently been transferred to Hobsonville, where they were to begin the instructors' course on Monday. They were in one of the station aircraft fitted with dual controls, and it is not definitely known which of the two was actually flying the machine at the time of the accident.

The body of Pilot Officer Butler was found and brought to Auckland and the wrecked machine was dragged ashore on the beach by a naval party.

HELP PROMPTLY GIVEN.

The prompt rescue of Hoy was made by Gunners O'Meara, Hipkins, and Mansell, all of the Royal Artillery, assisted by a Maori, W. Chelford, Castor Bay who was working in the vicinity. From the top of the steep cliff overlooking the channel they had seen the aeroplane crash and they also saw Hoy climb from the wrecked machine and grip the tail, which was protruding from the water. The aircraft sank rapidly, however, leaving the survivor struggling in the water in his heavy flying clothes and attempting to swim about 400 yards to the shore.

Hurriedly climbing down the cliff to the small beach. O'Meara and Hipkins threw off their clothes and swam out to Hoy. They supported him and were later joined by Mansell and Chelford, who had brought a rope. The five men came ashore together without great difficulty and without using the rope. Hoy was attended by an Army doctor who had been called.

There was no trace of Butler, who is believed to have been caught in the machine when the wings buckled under the impact of the crash. Naval launches were quickly on the scene, and Butler's body was later recovered with the wrecked machine.

The accident and subsequent rescue were witnessed by many people living in the neighbourhood. They spoke highly of the promptness with which

ARMY POSTS

CHANGES ANNOUNCED

SEVERAL PROMOTIONS

According to a list of appointments and promotions of personnel in the Expeditionary Force appearing recently in the Gazette, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. McNaught has been appointed to command the 32nd Wellington Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. L. Stewart, General Staff Officer, has been promoted to colonel, Major G. H. Heal, Divisional Signals, is appointed brigade major.

Major S. C. V. Sugden relinquishes command of the base reception depot on being placed on the New Zealand roll, Major R. V. Closey, 24th Auckland Battalion, relinquishes command of the prisoners of war camp and is appointed to command the base reception depot.

The appointment of Honorary Captain J. H. Hall as public relations officer, Expeditionary Force, is formally gazetted. A memorandum states that Major C. A. L. Treadwell performed the duties of public relations officer from March 6, 1940, to February 20, 1941.

In the list of promotions of officers of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Squadron Leaders R. J. Sinclair and J. Seabrook are appointed temporary wing commanders.

The following flight lieutenants are to be temporary squadron leaders:—C. L. Monckton, J. C. Horton, A. J. Turner, and J. D. Hewett.

Members of the Royal New Zealand Air Force serving outside New Zealand during the war are now deemed to be serving together and acting in combination with the Royal Air Force.



"What! You here, after saying you were going over to your mother's? How COULD you deceive me like that, Winnie?"

"Daily Mirror"

those nearest went to give assistance.

Pilot Officer Butler was born in Invercargill and educated at the Marist Brothers' School there and at Sacred Heart College, Auckland. He joined the Air Force last year and was trained in Levin, Dunedin and Blenheim, being transferred to Hobsonville less than a fortnight ago.

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He had been induced to say his prayers, and after the "make me a good boy" bit, came out with 'An' give 'tler a good hidin'."

"My dear," said the aged and very Christianly foster-mother. "You shouldn't say that: Say "and soften Hitler's heart."

"... And do wot the lidy says to 'tler, but give 'im a good hidin' jes' the same," said Tommy.

* * * * *

It seems to us that future-historians might call this age the German sauce-age.