



ACCIDENTS

Stratford Sub Castle

Accident to Autogiro: R.A.F Pilot Killed

An officer lost his life on Monday at Old Sarum near, Salisbury, in the first serious accident which has happened to an Auto-Giro in the R.A.F.

Flying Officer Lewis Walter Oliver, of No 2 (Army Co-operation) Squadron attached to the School of Army Co-operation at Old Sarum for instructions in the use of the Autogiro, was engaged in landing practice when the accident occurred.

He had taken off and was flying over the village of Stratford Sub Castle about a mile away. The machine unexpectedly put its nose down and dived, and struck the ground nose first at high speed. This is the type of Auto-giro in which control is obtained by tilting the rotor standard. Such an accident could not therefore be explained by the jamming of elevator controls. The cause of the accident was reported for the present as "obscure"

A number of aircraft of this type has been delivered recently to the R.A.F. for experimental use in artillery observations and on inter-communication duties in Army manoeuvres.

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