

54/42

16 DIE IN R.A.F. CRASH.

Wreckage of an R.A.F. Valetta aircraft lies scattered amongst the trees on Tom's Hill at Aldbury in Hertfordshire. All but one of the 17 occupants were killed. Lying in the snow are striped jerseys and rugby boots, for the men were flying back to their camp at Thorney Island after playing R.A.F. Station Halton in the second round of the Royal Air Force Rugby Cup.

From Halton, and from the camp at Bovingden where the match had been held. Air Force men come to keep guard.

Flying in a snowstorm, over Ashbridge Park Estate, the plane crashed close by a gamekeeper's cottage. Now the Air Ministry experts examine the wreck. Sections of the fuselage and the engines imbedded in the trees indicate the impact with which the Valetta crashed. Although there was no fire, rescuers found only two men alive when they reached the spot. One man died on the way to Hospital. Immediately the Air Ministry ordered a full enquiry into the cause of the accident.

