

FLYING DOCTOR PILOT DEAD

A pilot for the flying doctor service in the north-west was himself the subject of a flying call last week-end but died on Sunday night.

He was Reginald R. Robinson, who had been pilot for the Victorian section of the Australian Aerial Medical Services, based at Wyndham, almost since its inception five years ago.

After he had been operated on for appendicitis last week, complications set in and it was decided to bring a Darwin doctor to Wyndham for consultation.

After contacting Darwin by radio on Saturday it was found that the flying doctor machine was too busy.

It was therefore arranged from Perth for the Lockheed mail plane to hurry on to Darwin and return to Wyndham the same night with a doctor.

Mr. Robinson was employed by the MacRobertson-Miller Aviation Company, under contract to the medical service.

GOOD RECORD

His company said today: "He put up a marvellous record. For five years he flew over an area from Wyndham to Derby, Hall's Creek and Victoria River Downs, and never had a forced landing or damaged his machine.

"It was a tribute to his engineering skill that he had never had any trouble.

"His object was to make the service safe, and he achieved it. The most nervous person was not afraid to fly with him.

"As a result of the flying doctor scheme 60 women have gone to live in the area.

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"In 1936 'Robby' took part in the search for a missing R.A.A.F. machine. He flew a single-engined plane every day for eight days, and covered 3550 miles.

"One of his earlier trips was down to The Granites, a flight of about 400 miles. He had no map and had to depend on the verbal instructions of settlers."

Mr. Robinson leaves a wife at Wyndham, and a son at Guildford Grammar School.