

Harold Manning Haire, Class of 1944.



Plane Crash Injuries Prove Fatal to Memphian

A first flight in a plane he had purchased only Saturday ended in a flaming death for a 20-year-old Memphian pilot and his youthful companion yesterday morning when the ship crashed and burned in woods near West Memphis.

Killed were Harold Manning Haire of 3388 Carrington and Martin McEwen, 21, of 2454 Kimball, who had gone along for the ride.

The young Memphians had taken off from Sanders Field at West, Walls MS early yesterday morning for Bowen Flying Field at West Memphis and were en route back to the field at Walls when the plane crashed about 10 a.m., one mile west of Bowen Field.

A lady and her daughter, who were in their garden when they heard the plane overhead, said the pilot apparently was trying to land. The plane was circling with one wing dipped, the lady said, "It was only 500 feet up when it nose-dived to the ground, exploded and burned" she related. She said a second explosion followed a few seconds later. She said she and her daughter could not get near the plane because of the intense heat.

Bill Faison, instructor at Bowen Field, said he believed something went wrong with the plane and that the pilot was attempting to turn back to make an emergency landing at Bowen Field.

Young Haire obtained a private pilot's license about a year ago. He had more than 100 hours of flying to his credit and was working on his commercial pilot's license.

He had purchased the plane, a BT-13 (Army basic trainer) with Weston Brawdy of 1316 Poe to obtain more flying time. The purchase from Southern Air Service at Sanders Field was completed only Saturday when Haire had gone up with an instructor on a "Check – out flight." After being certified to fly the plane, Haire made arrangements to take his friend aloft Sunday morning when the young pilot would take over the controls alone.

The pilot formerly was employed at Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., a job he had resigned to go in business with his father. A. M. Haire, who operates a sales firm on Union. He was born in Memphis and was a graduate of Tech High. He also leaves his mother, Mrs. Jeffie Haire, and a sister, Mrs. Eloise McGehee of Memphis.