

THE BIRD

FLYING OFFICER K. HOLME

As briefly mentioned in our previous issue, we greatly regret to record the death, at the age of 31, of Flying Officer Kenneth Holme. He was the Navigator of a Lancaster Bomber which failed to return from air operations over Germany in August 1943. It was not, however, until March of this year that the official notification of his death was received from the Air Ministry.

He joined the Company's staff as a junior at our Preston District Office in 1930, after being educated at Lancaster Royal Grammar School. He secured his A.C.I.I. diploma in 1934 and was appointed an Inspector at Lancaster in the same year. In 1938 he took up a position in the Accident Department at Manchester Branch, where he remained until the outbreak of war. As a member of the R.A.F.V.R. he was called up almost at once, but it was not until about three years later, that he took up flying duties and received his commission. He was promoted to Flying Officer three days before his death.

Perhaps he will best be remembered by the staff for his passion for fast motor cars. At an early age, when such things were beyond the reach of most young insurance officials, he became the proud possessor of an M.G. sports car, to the envy of his less fortunate colleagues. This was succeeded by a Singer Le Mans model and then followed a Triumph Gloria, each in turn producing a few more m.p.h. Many stories were told of incredibly short times for journeys between Preston and Manchester and hair breadth escapes from the clutches of the 'speed cops.' The writer was a passenger on only one occasion and cannot remember anything about the journey as he was far too preoccupied with prayers for his safe deliverance at the destination. Providentially nothing untoward occurred and indeed as far as we know, Holme never came to grief in his motoring adventures.

We can well believe that with his love of speed he must have got a great kick out of his flying experiences and it is sad that this cheerful and sporting young man's career should have been bought to such a sudden end. He leaves a widow and a four year old son and we extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs Holme in her great loss.