

# Wrong Man Court Martialled

October 27 1951

The screenshot shows a digital scan of a newspaper page from the National Library of Australia's Trove database. The page is from the Sydney Morning Herald, dated Saturday, October 27, 1951, page 1. The main headline is "Wrong Man Court Martialled". The article text is visible, starting with "BRISBANE, Friday. When Stanley James Rollins, 25, labourer, of Nowra, N.S.W., faced a court-martial at Amberley this week on a charge of desertion from the R.A.A.F., it was found he had never been in the Air Force. He told court-martial officers he was destitute, and he was given a free railway ticket back to N.S.W. and £3 for pocket money." The page also features a photograph of a man, identified as Mr. Attlee, and several other news items like "Sid Barnes Not In Test Team" and "A Kiss for Mr. Attlee".

## Wrong Man Court Martialled BRISBANE, Friday.

When Stanley James Rollins, 25, labourer, of Nowra, N.S.W., faced a court-martial at Amberley this week on a charge of desertion from the R.A.A.F., it was found he had never been in the Air Force.

He told court-martial officers he was destitute, and he was given a free railway ticket back to N.S.W. and £3 for pocket money.

Rollins spent to-night at Archerfield R.A.A.F. station. He will get a train home tomorrow.

Rollins's christian names, surname, age, and description corresponded exactly with the wanted man.

He was arrested eight days ago by Sydney R.A.A.F. police in Nowra.

R.A.A.F. officers believed he was a man who deserted from Archerfield station 260 days ago.

At a preliminary hearing before Group-Captain Garing he denied he was the wanted Rollins.

The hearing was adjourned, and on investigation officers discovered the mistake.

The image shows the front page of The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. The masthead "The Sydney Morning Herald" is prominently displayed in a large, stylized font. To the left, there is a "LATE EDITION" section with weather forecasts for the city and surrounding areas. To the right, the price is listed as "PRICE, 4d". At the bottom, there is a box with tide information for Fort Denison. The page also includes publication details such as "ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF PUBLICATION" and "44 PAGES SYDNEY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1951".



# “Deserter” Was Never In R.A.A.F.

27 Oct 1951 - "DESERTER" WAS NEVER IN R.A.A.F.

**"DESERTER" WAS NEVER IN R.A.A.F.**

AIR FORCE officials at Amberley this week attempted to court-martial a civilian for desertion.

But at the preliminary hearing - before the trial they discovered the man had never been in the R.A.A.F.

The man was given a free railway ticket back to Nowra (95 miles south of Sydney) eight days ago.

They held him in Sydney, and he was brought to Amberley in custody on Tuesday to face court-martial.

The man, who appeared as Stanley James Rollins, 25, labourer, of Nowra, denied at a preliminary hearing before Group Captain W. H. Garing, that he was the wanted man.

The charge was remanded and officers then discovered he had never been in the Air Force.

They released him later.

The man was given a free railway ticket back to N.S.W., and £3 for pocket money.

Last night he was a guest at Archerfield R.A.A.F. station. He will catch his train home to-day.

Rollins' Christian name, surname, age, and description corresponded exactly with a man alleged to have deserted from Archerfield 260 days ago.

A R.A.A.F. spokesman claimed last night: "This man told the Sydney service police that he was the wanted Rollins at the time of his arrest."

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But at the preliminary hearing before the trial they discovered the man had never been in the R.A.A.F.

Service police had arrested the civilian at Nowra (95 miles south of Sydney) eight days ago. They held him in Sydney, and he was brought to Amberley in custody on Tuesday to face court-martial.

The man, who appeared as Stanley James Rollins, 25, labourer, of Nowra, denied at a preliminary hearing before Group Captain W. H. Garing, that he was the wanted man. The charge was remanded and officers then discovered he had never been in the Air Force. They released him later.

The man was given a free railway ticket back to N.S.W., and £3 for pocket money. Last night he was a guest at Archerfield R.A.A.F. station. He will catch his train home to-day. Rollins' Christian name, surname, age, and description corresponded exactly with a man alleged to have deserted from Archerfield 260 days ago.

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Source:- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/50225410>