

# Crop Dust Pilot Killed in Crash

## Craft Strikes Power Line, Falls and Burns

Russel Darbyshire Jr.  
Victim of Accident

Russell O. Darbyshire Jr. of Anthony was killed early today when his crop dusting airplane crashed on a cotton farm in the Upper Valley.

A guard at La Tuna Correctional Institution said he saw Darbyshire trying to avoid hitting a power line. A wing tip touched the ground and the plane crashed and burned.

Darbyshire's charred body was removed from the plane wreckage with a blow torch.



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of 72 combat missions for the Navy in World War II, was working for the Crawford Flying Service of Las Cruces.

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### Flew in War II

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The accident occurred on the federal prison farm near Highway 80. Young Darbyshire was dusting the nearby Singh farm.

He had taken off from a small landing strip on the farm of his father, R. Oliver Darbyshire Sr., about 6:30 a. m.

The father, as was his custom, watched his son take off. Returning to the house, he became worried when the pilot did not land to fill his dusting tanks with chemical insecticides. He went out to look for his son, but could not find him. A little later the family was notified of the crash by telephone.

### Served in Navy

Sheriff Hicks sent deputies to the scene. Justice of Peace F. O. Treharne was to conduct an inquest.

Young Darbyshire attended Anthony High School and New Mexico A. and M. College. He served six years in the Navy.

He was unmarried.

His brother, Jack Darbyshire, a recent A. and M. graduate, also is a pilot, but not a crop duster.

The dead man was a nephew of Spencer M. Darbyshire of the Darbyshire Steel Co. His father, R. Oliver Darbyshire Sr., is associated with the firm but lives on his farm near Anthony.

Funeral services will be held at 5 p. m. tomorrow at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at Canutillo, Rev. Paul G. Saunders officiating. Burial will be in the Anthony cemetery under direction of Kaster and Maxon Mortuary.