

BRIEF NEWS IN FLASHES

20

Blacksmith Harry Cooper was Lord of the Hood in the Haxey Hood Game. His pa^{tr}, coal merchant Bob Wilson, was the Fool. The game's been played at Haxey, Lincolnshire, for 600 years. The Fool throws the leather hood, and all the milling males ~~for miles around~~ engage in a muddy fight for it. In 1400-and-something one Lady De Mowbray had her black hood blown off by a gust of wind. It was retrieved by for the ~~discoverer~~ finder, the village fool. Prize today, free beer.

20

Wrecked in the snow near Aldbury, Hertfordshire, lay and R.A.F. Valetta aircraft. Fourteen of the 16 men on board were killed; one died in hospital, another is dangerously injured. Wreckage lay scattered about. The plane was taking back Thorney Island R.A.F. Rugby Team after their match against Halton R.A.F. Station. In the dark at about 5.30. the aircraft crashed on to a slope in Ashridge Park. Next morning a super-charger, deeply embedded in a tree, indicated the force of the crash. The first men on the scene extricated the two airmen still living. ~~Two bodies were afterwards found, lying from the plane.~~

50