

Four Airmen Dead; Darwin Plane Crash

From Our Special Correspondent.
MELBOURNE, Saturday.

Four airmen were killed when an R.A.A.F. plane crashed into the sea at Darwin yesterday.

They were:

Flying-Officer Paul Wallace, Keely, 25, single, of Melbourne;

Flying-Officer Murray Charles Davies, 29, single, of Melbourne;

Sergt. Maxwell Alexander Hipkins, 21, single, of Perth;

Leading-Aircraftman James Currie, 21, single, of Perth.

The aircraft failed to come out of a dive and hit a target, causing the port engine to drop out. It crashed into the sea about 250 yards beyond the target, and was completely wrecked.

SUN(SYDNEY) 17.8.41

FOUR KILLED IN R.A.A.F. CRASH

DARWIN, Sunday.—The four occupants of an R.A.A.F. plane were killed instantly yesterday when their machine crashed into the sea eight miles from Darwin.

They were Flying Officer Paul Wallace Keely, 27, single, of Melbourne; Flying Officer M. C. John Davies, of Melbourne; Sergeant Maxwell Alex Hipkins, 22, single, of Hawthorn, Victoria; and Leading Aircraftman James Currie, 23, single, of Perth, Western Australia.

The plane failed to pull out of a dive until only a few feet above a target. The left wing struck the target, causing the machine to crash into the sea about 100 yards from the shore in water only a few feet deep.

A number of Air Force men swam out to the plane and dragged Keely, Hipkins, and Currie from the wreckage. They were dead. The body of Flying Officer Davies has not yet been recovered.

Four Die In Air Crash At Darwin

MELBOURNE, Saturday. — Two officers and two airmen were killed when an R.A.A.F. plane crashed at Darwin yesterday.

THE machine, which was engaged in air to ground gunnery practice, dived out of control into the sea.

Those killed were:

Flying Officer Paul Wallace Keely (25), single, of Melbourne.

Flying Officer Murray Charles Davies (29), single, of Melbourne.

Sergeant Maxwell Alexander Hipkins (20), single, of Melbourne.

Leading Aircraftman James Currie (21), single, of Perth.

The aircraft failed to come out of a dive and hit a target, causing the port engine to drop out.

Complete Wreck

It crashed into the sea about 250 yards beyond the target, and was completely wrecked.

Flying Officer Keely enlisted as an air cadet in January, 1940, trained at Essendon and Laverton, and received his commission on May 4, that year.

After spending some time on escort duty, he was posted to Darwin.

Flying Officer Davies enlisted as an air cadet on the same day as Flying Officer Keely.

Was Passenger

He trained at Essendon and Point Cook, and also received his commission on May 4, 1940.

Sergeant Hipkins joined the Air Force in June, 1940.

He was trained at a New South Wales school and was subsequently transferred to Darwin.

Leading Aircraftman Currie was a passenger in the aircraft.

He enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in February, 1940.

DAILY MIRROR 16.8.41

Flier killed week after sham death

MELBOURNE, Saturday.—A week before he crashed to his death, Sergeant Maxwell Alexander Hipkins, 20, R.A.A.F., wrote to his mother from Darwin:—

"Dear Mum,—We had a sham fight yesterday. On paper, my plane was shot down, and I am a dead 'un."

Hipkins and three others were

killed at Darwin yesterday, when an R.A.A.F. bomber dived out of control into the sea.

The others were:—

Flying-Officer Paul Wallace Keely, 25, single, of Melbourne.

Flying-Officer Murray Charles Davies, 29, single, of Melbourne.

Leading-Aircraftman James Currie, 21, single, of Perth.

Crash During Dive

The plane, in which the men were practising air-to-ground gunnery, failed to come out of a dive, and hit a target.

The port engine dropped out, and the plane crashed into the sea about 250 yards beyond the target.

Mrs. Hipkins said today: "I received Max's letter only two days ago. He was counting the days when he would be home again."

Her only other son, Captain Collier Hipkins, A.I.F., was recently invalided home from Palestine.

Sergeant Hipkins joined the Air Force in June, last year.

Schoolmates

Flying-Officer Keely and Flying-Officer Davies were schoolmates at Xavier College, and enlisted together in January last year.

Davies, Keely, and Pilot-Officer James Campbell, former Melbourne representative of the Daily Telegraph, got their wings together in May of last year.

Campbell was shot down and killed in Libya in January last.

Davies wrote to a friend after he

had heard of Campbell's death:—

"I have two scores to even up now that two pals of mine have been killed."

The other pal he referred to was Lionel Gedye, of Gardenvale, who was killed at Tobruk.



FLYING-OFFICER P. W. KEELY



SGT. M. A. HIPKINS

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 17.8.41

Dives Into Sea

R.A.A.F. Plane

AUGUST 16, 1941

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R.A.A.F. Plane**Dives Into Sea**

DARWIN CRASH KILLS 4

From Our Special Representative

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

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The machine was engaged in air to ground gunnery practice when it dived out of control.

Those killed were:—

Flying-Officer Paul Wallace Keely, 25, single of Melbourne;

Flying-Officer Murray Charles Davies, 29, single of Melbourne.

Sergt. Maxwell Alexander Hipkins, 20, single, of Melbourne.

Leading-Aircraftman James Currie, 21, single, of Perth.

The aircraft failed to come out of a dive and hit a target, causing the port engine to drop out. It crashed into the sea about 250 yards beyond the target, and was completely wrecked.

Flying-Officer Keely enlisted as an air cadet in January, 1940. He trained at Essendon and Laverton, and received his commission on May 4 last year. After spending some time on escort duty he was posted to Darwin.

Flying-Officer Davies enlisted as an air cadet on the same day as Flying-Officer Keely, and also received his commission on May 4 last year. He trained at Essendon and Pt. Cook.

Sergt. Hipkins joined the R.A.A.F. in June, 1940. He was trained at a New South Wales school, and subsequently posted to Darwin.

Leading-Aircraftman Currie was a passenger in the aircraft. He enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in November last year.

