

7 feared dead in vanished R.A.A.F. plane

SEVEN RAAF men are presumed to have died in an aircraft which disappeared at sea in the Bowen-Rockhampton area.

Widespread search since last Sunday has failed to find a sign of the plane.

The search is continuing, but little hope is held of finding survivors.

The missing men are:

Squadron-Leader N. M. Pilcher (Merewether).

Flying-Officer T. J. Steel, navigator (Dundas).

Squadron-Leader C. Griffen (Glenowlea, Bonshaw).

Flight-Lieut. E. H. Clarke, pilot (Melrose, SA).

Cpl. W. McPherson (Gaze, Victoria Park, WA).

LAC F. G. Chiverton (Townsville, Qld.)

LAC W. H. Nielson (Sarina, Qld.).

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SUN (SYDNEY) 29.7.45

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R.A.A.F. Men Missing In Plane

TRUTH 29.7.45

BRISBANE, Saturday. — Seven members of the R.A.A.F. are reported to be in an Air Force plane which has been missing from a survey flight off the Northern Queensland coast since last Sunday.

An official statement released by the R.A.A.F. last night states: "An aircraft has been missing on a survey flight from an R.A.A.F. station in Southern Queensland since last Sunday. Although a continuous search has been made and is still in progress, no trace of it has been found."

"The missing plane was last heard of in the Bowen-Rockhampton area."

The statement adds that the men on board reported missing are:

Flight-Lieut. Lancelot Edward Helver Clarke, pilot, of Melrose, SA.

Flying-Officer Thomas John Steel, navigator, of Dundas, N.S.W.

Squadron-Leader Nigel Minter Pilcher, of Merrywether, N.S.W.

Squadron-Leader Cuthbert Griffith, of Glenowlea, Bondshaw, N.S.W.

Corporal William Macpherson Gaze, of Victoria Park, W.A.

L/C. George Chiverton, of Townsville, Queensland.

L/C. Walter Henrich Nielsen, of Sarina, Queensland.

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