

AIRMEN CRASH IN SEA

Rough Journey in New Guinea

OUR WAR CORRESPONDENT,
SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA,
Sunday.—After days of travel on
rubber rafts and in native canoes
and of floundering through mud,
Australian airmen who were
missing in New Guinea have
reached civilisation.

They were led by Flight-Lieutenant
Michael Mather, who was earlier
awarded the Air Force Cross for his
work in the evacuation by air of ser-
vicemen from Rabaul.

Mather, who is back in Australia,
told to-day how their flying-boat
crashed when taking the water to
rescue natives adrift in a battered
whaleboat 60 miles from shore.

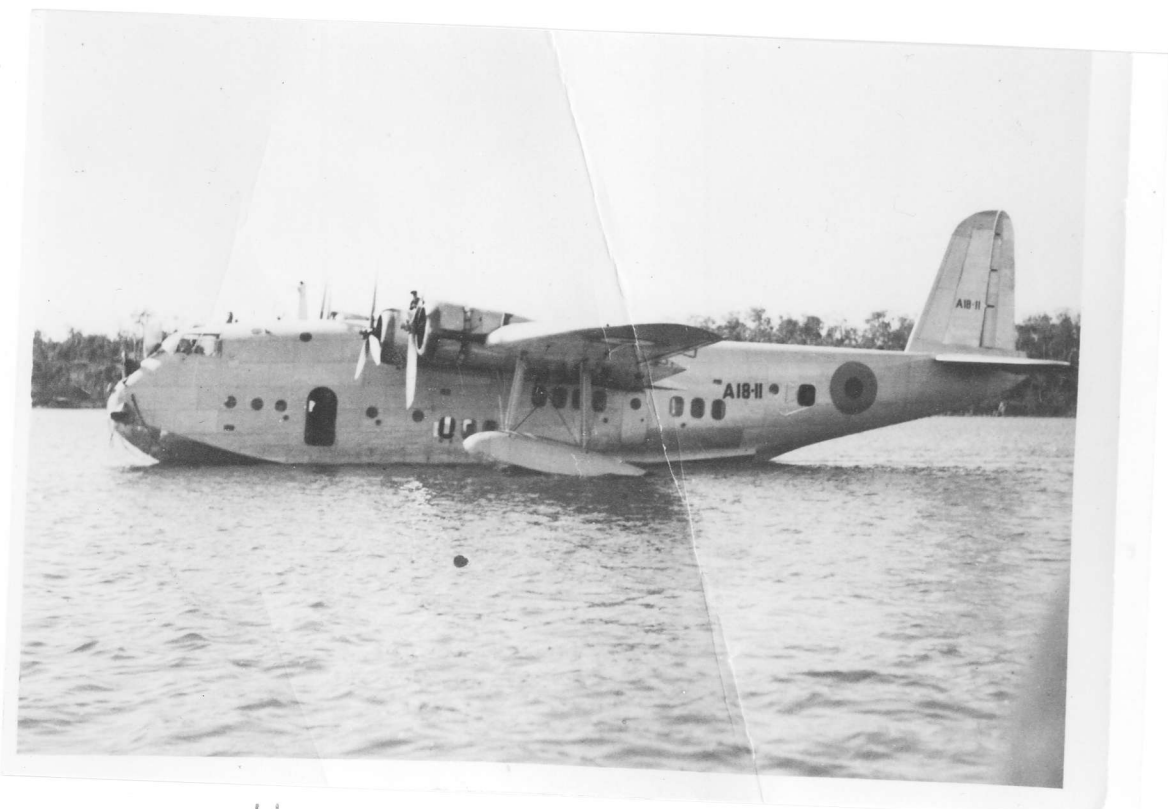
The first engineer, Sergeant Casi-
maty, once known on the speedway as
"Case," was knocked unconscious.

The party clung to two inflated
rubber rafts.

After having paddled for 59 hours
they reached the shore. There they
sheltered in villages, where the natives
fed them.

They fought their way through
mangrove swamps until they reached
a village where there was a police
constable, who took them by canoe to a
Government station. The airmen were
picked up there by launch.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
7.9.42



SHORT EMPIRE
FLYING BOAT.