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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE.

NO. 24/5/79 (12A).

Secretary,  
AIR BOARD.

(Copy to No. 1 Aircraft Depot, LAVERTON)

Headquarters,  
No. 4 (Maintenance) Group,  
38 Irving Road,  
TOORAK.

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT: FORCED LANDING ANSON MG. 871  
AT KEPPEL BAY ON 10TH AUGUST, 1944.

On 10th August, 1944, the pilot of Anson MG. 871, whilst on a ferry flight to BUNDABERG from MELBOURNE was forced by bad weather to continue the flight to ROCKHAMPTON, arriving there in the dark at 1805 hours. The aircraft circled ROCKHAMPTON looking for the landing ground and flashing the landing lights together with the navigation lights for an hour, eventually landing with the wheels up on the beach.

2. In the course of investigating the accident, North Eastern Area were requested to investigate why no response was made at the aerodrome to assist the aircraft in distress. The result of the investigation discloses that the aerodrome at ROCKHAMPTON is under Civil control with an official on duty all the time. An R.A.A.F. Corporal of the refuelling party, rang this official and told him of the aircraft, and that he thought it was searching for the landing field.

3. Apparently, because the aircraft was not expected and had not called the Aeradio at ROCKHAMPTON by W/T, this official failed to take any action to light the aerodrome which, it is understood, is fully equipped for night landings, the switches being in the Aeradio Office.

4. Eventually, the Commanding Officer of No. 21 O.B.U., after receiving several 'phone calls from citizens of ROCKHAMPTON, rang the aerodrome, and the lights were switched on, but too late to save the aircraft, which by this time was practically out of fuel, and had already collided with a tree injuring the pilot in the eye before landing on the beach.

69

5. It is considered that the official concerned showed a lack of appreciation of his responsibility, and lack of initiative for one in charge of an aerodrome, and it is requested that this incident be brought to the notice of the Department of Civil Aviation.

(Signed.) A. W. Murphy. Air Commodore.  
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING