

# DARWIN'S 1 A.M. REPORT: "STILL NO SIGN" BOMBER DISAPPEARS ON GULF FLIGHT

QD PAPER

## "Lost engine" ... last grim report

CRASH 9.11.51

**DARWIN, Friday.** — A R.A.A.F. Mosquito bomber, with a pilot and navigator on board, is missing in desolate country somewhere between Darwin and Townsville.

The twin-engine plane left Darwin at midday, and soon after 2 o'clock a message picked up by Daly Waters Aeradio said the Mosquito had "lost" an engine.

A search by another R.A.A.F. plane based at Darwin late to-day failed to find any trace of the Mosquito.

[At 1 a.m. to-day Darwin police told The Courier-Mail that there was still no news of the missing plane.]

The search will be resumed at dawn to-morrow by an R.A.A.F. Lincoln, a Wirraway, and possibly a Dakota.

The message from the missing plane, after stating that it had lost an engine, added that it was losing height over heavily timbered country and was heading for Daly Waters aerodrome (250 miles south-east of Darwin).

About one hour later another message was received, stating that the plane was about to make a forced landing.

### Close to Gulf

No position was given, but it has been estimated that when Daly Waters received the first message the plane was near the southern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria, which is on the direct Darwin—Townsville route.

The land search is being organised from Daly Waters for to-morrow to supplement the air search.

The manager of Nutwood Downs Station (Mr. Massey Hood) is understood to have been asked to have horse teams ready.

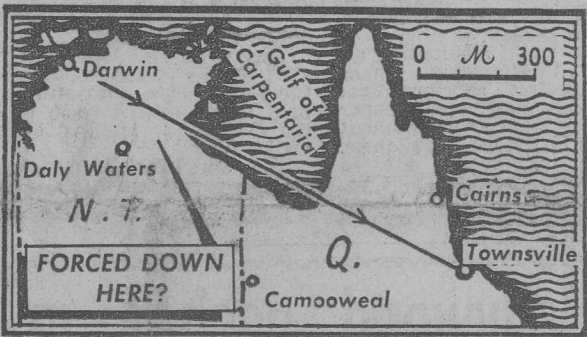
Nutwood Downs is about 50 miles north-east of Daly Waters

### Flashback—

In April, 1947, a R.N.Z.A.F. Mosquito was lost on direct flight from Darwin to Townsville.

Wreckage was subsequently found in the sea near Mornington Island. The crew perished.

Keith Anderson and his mechanic, H. C. Hitchcock, lost their lives in the Wave Hill area, about 200 miles south-west of Daly Waters, when searching for Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, who made a forced landing on a mud flat during a



The route on which the missing bomber set out.

# 10 AIR FORCE PLANES OUT IN BROAD SWEEP FOR MISSING BOMBER

Ten R.A.A.F. planes, including two Lincoln bombers from Amberley, have flown out from Darwin today in one of the biggest air searches ever conducted here.

They are seeking a Mosquito bomber, with two aboard, which is missing on a flight from Darwin to Townsville.

Ground parties are being organised at Daly Waters to leave immediately for the scene if the plane is sighted.

The Mosquito left Darwin yesterday to fly to Townsville direct.

About two and a half hours later Daly Waters Aeradio received a message from the Mosquito that one of its engines had failed and that it was losing height over heavily-timbered country.

The plane would then have been in the Gulf of Carpentaria area, although it is believed that no actual position report was given.

The plane is thought to have turned toward Daly Waters and an hour later a second message was received that the pilot was about to

make a forced landing.

Since then there has been silence.

The planes in the search today are a Lincoln, Dakota and Wirraway, based on Darwin, and planes from Amberley, South Australia, and Manus Island.

One of the Lincolns from Amberley took off at 8 last night. The other left at 10.8 a.m. today.

Flight-Lieutenant Thorn is in command of the first plane and Flight-Lieutenant Wilson captains the second crew.

They will be based on Darwin.

The searching aircraft will report to Darwin by radio because they will be out of range to Amberley.

Searchers think the Mosquito might have crash-landed near the southern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The missing airmen are Pilot Officer R. H. Jones, of Cantyvale, N.S.W., and Flight-Sergeant A. Holdstock, of Auburn, Victoria.

BRISBANE TELEGRAPH

## PLANE FOUND

# 2 Lost fliers "safe"

DARWIN, Sat.—A ground party left Daly Waters late to-day to rescue two airmen forced down in a Mosquito bomber on a flight from Darwin to Townsville yesterday.

The party is expected to return to civilisation with the rescued men late on Tuesday or early on Wednesday.

The leader of the party is Daly Waters hotel proprietor, Mr. Thomas Humphries, who is driving his own three ton truck over practically unknown tracks for 100 miles to reach the plane.

## Use natives

Mr. Humphries said by telephone to-day that the officer commanding the North-western Area R.A.A.F. (Wing - Commander Alan McCormick), Flight - Lieutenant Kevin Carrie, Constables Ted Davis and Gordon Stott, and a number of natives, would go with him.

They will also take natives from Ot Downs when they reach the station for their special knowledge of that area. The party will stop on the main road at Elliott to-night and branch out at daybreak to-morrow.

They will try to make Ot Downs by dark to-morrow.

The missing Mosquito was sighted soon after noon to-day by the crew of a R.A.A.F. Lincoln about 120 miles south-east of Daly Waters.

The two men in the plane had pinned out a message on the ground: "All okay."

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