

Girl, scientists, 3 airmen in Dakota crash

SYDNEY, Mon. — A girl, two scientists and the crew of three are missing, believed dead, following a R.A.A.F. Dakota crash into the sea off Cronulla today.

28.10.52: SUN.

Wreckage from the aircraft, clothing and other articles have been found.

A civil airlines crew saw a large patch of oil on the water.

In the Dakota were:

Flight-Lieut. A. F. Tafe, of Richmond R.A.A.F. station.

Warrant Officer G. G. Bocquet, signaller, of Wentworthville, Sydey.

Aircraftwoman M. E. Costello, clerk, of Warragamba Dam near Sydney.

A co-pilot, whose identity is being withheld until his next of kin have been notified.

Ronald Stephen Styles, 26, scientist, married, of Caringbah, Sydney.

W. R. Campbell, 37, scientist, of Berowra, near Sydney.

Styles and Campbell were attached to the C.S.I.R.O. and were leading workers in the rainmaking activities of the organisation.

The plane, which was on a regular weekly weather research flight, disappeared less than half an hour after taking off.

One of the most intensive searches ever conducted in the ocean near Sydney followed.

The R.A.A.F., Navy, civil airlines and police cooperated in a wide sea, land and air search.

Early this afternoon a rubber dinghy, a life belt, a R.A.A.F. cap, a jacket, a smoke float and a number of small articles were found in the sea off Cronulla.

These articles have been positively identified as from the plane.

The last message from the plane was 10.56 a.m. when it radioed that it was descending from 6000 ft. to 2000 ft.

Members of the crew of the interstate freighter, Poul Carl, said they had seen a smoke flare burning on the water and wreckage.

The plane had been

Find wreckage from lost RAAF Dakota

SYDNEY (by teleprinter) — Navy and Air Force vessels have recovered clothing and wreckage from an RAAF Dakota weather aircraft which crashed into the sea off Cronulla, just south of Sydney yesterday morning.

Rescue authorities hold out little hope for the five men and one woman who were aboard.

They believe that a member of the WRAAF, three RAAF crew members and two Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation scientists lost their lives.

Those on board the aircraft when it crashed about 11 am were:—

Flight-Lieutenant A. F. Tafe, 32, married, of Richmond RAAF station.

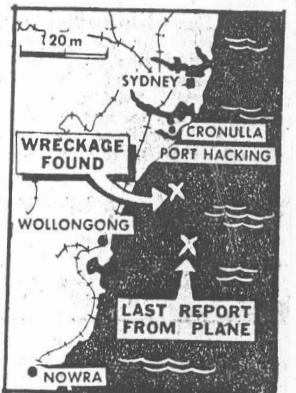
Warrant-Officer G. G. Bocquet, signaller, of Wentworthville.

Aircraftwoman Margaret E. Costello, 18, clerk, of Warragamba Dam.

Mr. R. S. Styles, 26, CSIRO, of Caringbah.

Mr. W. R. Campbell, 37, married, CSIRO, of Berowra.

An RAAF co-pilot, whose name is being withheld until next of kin are advised.



MAP shows area in which the Dakota crashed.

(OLD PAPER)

Rough seas

Seas were rough and the weather stormy over the area when the plane crashed.

Rescue authorities believe that if any survived the crash, they are now lost. Pilots of search aircraft reported several waterspouts.

In a wide search of the sea off Cronulla and Port Hacking yesterday, the Navy frigate HMAS Culgoa and three RAAF search and rescue launches recovered a cap, a jacket, a smoke flare, and other wreckage from the aircraft.

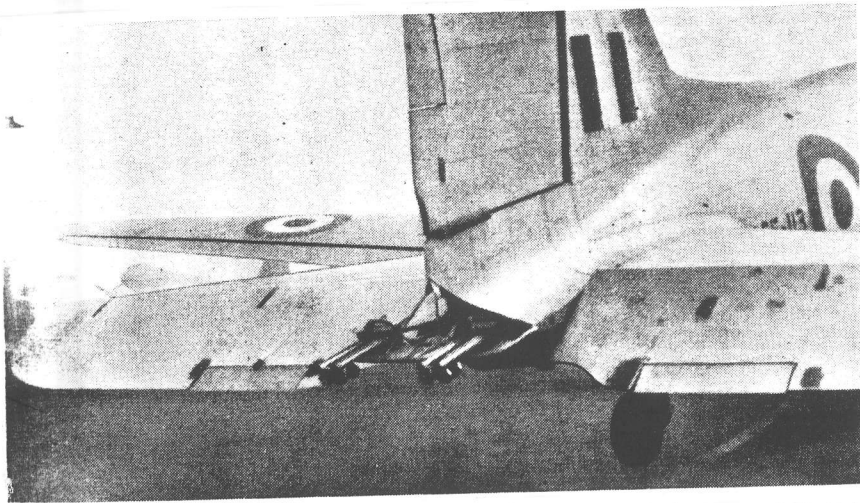
An airliner saw oil on the water, and the crew of an interstate freighter, the Poul Carl, saw a smoke flare and what they believe was part of the plane in the water.

Last night, the Navy and Air Force continued the sea search, and the search of the shore near the spot will continue to-day.

Tests for rain

The Dakota was specially fitted with radar and other equipment for experiments in weather research. It was associated with successful CSIRO efforts to induce rain by seeding clouds with dry ice.

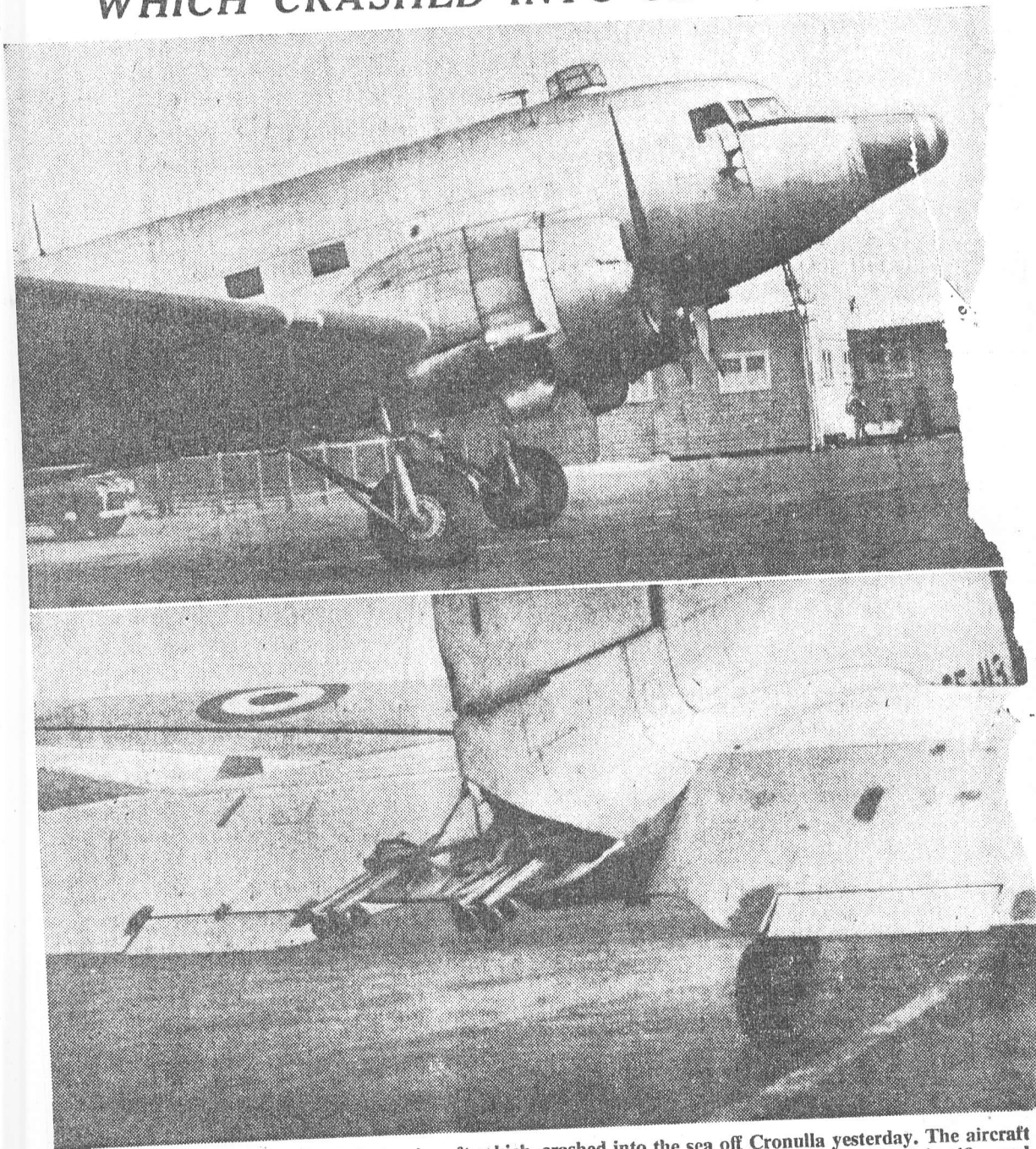
At 10.34 am, the aircraft left Mascot on the regular weekly CSIRO weather research flight.



A65-113, the business end of which is shown in the lower picture. This last-mentioned machine, incidentally, recently crashed into the sea near Sydney. It was fitted with equipment transferred from Qantas DC-3 VH-EBJ

9.1.53 FLIGHT 7.35

R.A.A.F. DAKOTA AIRCRAFT WHICH CRASHED INTO SEA



Two views of the R.A.A.F. Dakota aircraft which crashed into the sea off Cronulla yesterday. The aircraft was fitted for use in experiments conducted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. The extended nose containing

R.A.A.F. PLANE MISSING

Search between Sydney & Woollongong

SYDNEY: Planes and crash boats are searching for an R.A.A.F. Dakota missing on a routine flight off the coast between Sydney and Wollongong.

The Dakota took off from Kingsford Smith airport at 10.34 and was last heard from at 10.57 when the pilot reported he was climbing from 6,000 to 12,000 feet.

BRISBANE PAPER 27.10.52

The Dakota was due back at Kingsford Smith airport at 11.12 a.m., and when it had still not reported its position by 12.25 p.m., the R.A.A.F. and Civil Aviation immediately launched emergency search procedure.

The search area is a 25-mile wide belt of sea between Wollongong and Sydney.

Operations officers kept on the ground civil air-which were about ve Sydney as the was starting.

did this to keep the air and the radio waves clear and also so that they would have a fleet of planes ready to join the search if required.

The overdue Dakota was at first reported to be a plane used by the C.S.I.R.O. for rain-making experiments, but the C.S.I.R.O. stated that neither of its planes was flying at the time.

The number of persons on board the Dakota is uncertain, but its normal crew is four.

Flying weather off the coast is poor, with low clouds and driving