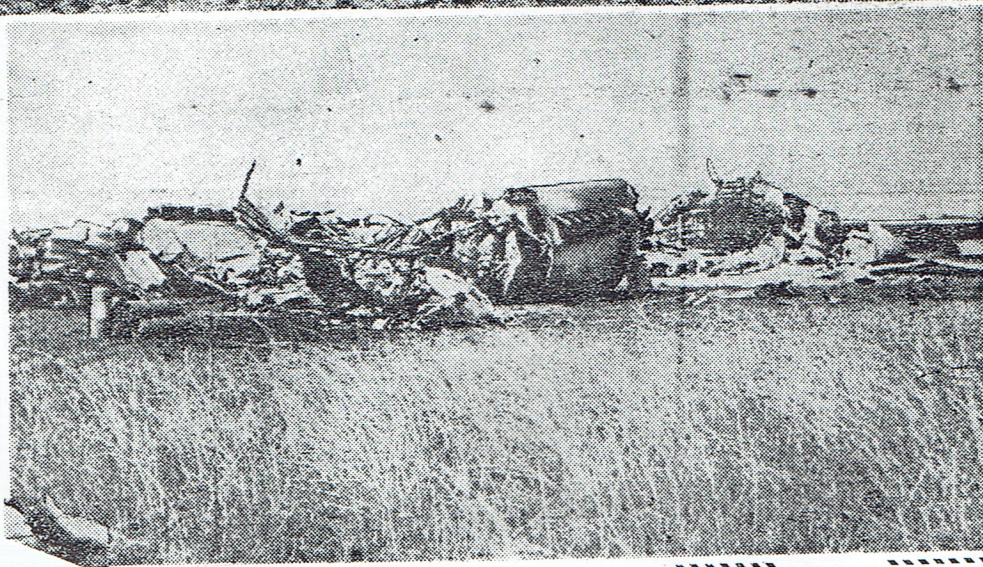


BRISBANE PAPER
2.48



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Cathedral service for crash victims

Representing all Protestant victims of Thursday's R.A.A.F. Lincoln crash at Amberley, the body of one identified Anglican airman will be taken into St. John's Cathedral to-morrow for a special service to be held at 2.15 p.m.

If a Catholic victim can be identified among the five Catholic airmen known to have perished in the crash, his body will be taken into St. Stephen's Cathedral for the Requiem Mass to be celebrated to-morrow morning at 10 a.m. If not, a catafalque before the altar will act as a symbol during the ceremonies.

During the service at St. John's Cathedral the bodies of the 15 other victims will remain outside.

After the service the cortege will move to the Lutwyche cemetery, where each victim will be buried separately.

A combined graveside service will be conducted by five R.A.A.F. chaplains of various denominations.

Airmen from Amberley will make up the escort of 14, bearer party of 96, firing party of 16, and band of 24 in the funeral ceremony.

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The other two inquiries are R.A.A.F. proceedings; one is a Court of Inquiry, the second an investigation by Wing Commander I. A. P. Allen, officer-in-charge of the Air Accidents Committee.

Red Verery lights, it was stated, were fired at the pilot of the news plane. The pilot has been given the opportunity to put his version to the authorities.

2.48 BRISBANE PAPER

all that remains of the £100,000 Lincoln bomber which crashed at Amberley last night.

RIGHT: A Lincoln bomber in flight.



GRIM SEARCH OF PLANE VICTIMS' NAMES REVEALED

Seven of the 16 killed at Amberley last night in one of the worst plane crashes of Royal Australian Air Force history were Queenslanders.

Five lived in Ipswich, one was a member of a Newmarket family, and the other's home town was Pittsworth.

The names and addresses of most of the complement of the ill-fated Lincoln announced by Air Board, Melbourne, were:

- F/LT ERIC ELLIS WILLIAMS, D.F.C., captain, 34, Thorn Street, Ipswich.
- W/O FREDERICK LESLIE WELSH, second pilot, Toorak Flats, Nicholas Street, Ipswich.
- F/LT NORMAN HENRY KOBELKE, D.F.C., navigator, 34 Thorn Street, Ipswich.
- W/O KENNETH ALFRED GIBSON, wireless operator, Park Street, Ipswich.
- W/O THOMAS WALTER WELFARE, wireless operator, 20 Phillip Avenue, Seabrook, South Australia.

Five of the 16 dead men had won the D.F.C. and a sixth the D.F.M. Most had brilliant war records, one being a Pathfinder.

They lost their lives at 5.52 p.m. yesterday when the heavy bomber overshoot a short strip at Amberley returning from a stores mission to Laverton, with R.A.A.F. passengers aboard, who were being going on leave or on postings to other stations. The Lincoln seemed to take the air again but stalled, crashed and burst into flames.

RESERVE CREW.

- FT/LT WALTER GREENHOUGH GARDNER, D.F.C., navigator, Wichham Street, Newmarket, Brisbane.
- FT/LT JOHN JAMES GIBB, wireless operator, 42 Canterbury Street, Flemington, Melbourne.
- FT/LT WILLIAM JOHN TAGGART, D.F.C., pilot, Yarwood Street, Kempsey, N.S.W.
- FT/LT BRYAN STANLEY MURPHY, D.F.C., pilot, 87 Hoham Street, East Melbourne.

PASSENGERS.

- FT/Sgt M. J. DESMOND, Hadley Street, Pittsworth.
 - CPL ARTHUR DUDLEY BERNARD, filter, 5 Murphy Street, Ipswich.
- Five names have yet to be announced. Most of the Queenslanders

had won citations for bravery in world war two.

One was on his way home for demobilisation after years of service with the R.A.A.F.

The Chief of the Air Accidents Committee already has been flown to the scene of the crash from New South Wales, and will immediately investigate the crash.

Commanding Officer (Group Captain Douglas) announced that the crash occurred after the aircraft had come in too fast.

Preliminary inquiries indicate that the Lincoln's captain was not at the controls.

The Air Minister (Mr. Drakeford has asked for a report of the inquiry.

The 16 bodies were badly burned and some of them were not identified until this morning.

REVEALED GAINED AWARDS

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Although the bomber became extremely difficult to control Williams flew it to England and made a safe landing.

Flight-Lieutenant Taggart's citation states that he was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack railway sidings in France.

His coolness and efficiency largely contributed to the

Recently he rejoined on a short-term commission basis.

After he became a navigator, he saw action in New Guinea and then went to England.

In 1944, while in England, he married an English girl from Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Mrs. Gardner arrived in Australia only nine months ago with other English war brides. Their son Richard was born in England.

Flight-Sergeant Desmond, of Pittsworth, was killed



Two Missed Plane, And Live

Luckiest men at Amberley today are two officers who missed the Lincoln, which crashed on its return flight late yesterday.

Request by Catholic chaplain at Amberley, Rev. Father Hogan, for a passage was granted.

He prepared to take off for the south in the Lincoln. But because accommodation on the return flight would be taxed with R.A.A.F. passengers, Father Hogan was advised he could not make the flight.

Flight Lieutenant W. A. Forbes, of Western Australia, also missed travelling on the bomber because he was preparing a lecture.

He was asked to make up the crew as flight engineer, but was not able to compile his lecture notes in time, and the Lincoln took aboard another engineer and departed without him.

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The Lincoln seemed to take the air again but stalled, crashed and burst into flames. Part of the wreckage was still smouldering to-day.

The captain of the aircraft, Flight-Lieutenant Williams, was described in the citation for his D.F.C. as a most efficient and courageous captain and pilot of aircraft.

It related that on one occasion in 1944 he took part in an attack on Bonn and that while over the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and received heavy damage.

F.T. / LT. W A L T E R GREENHOUGH GARDNER, D.F.C., navigator, Wickham Street, Newmarket, Brisbane.

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Flight-Lieutenant Taggart's citation states that he was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack railway sidings in France.

His coolness and efficiency largely contributed to the success of the attack. He had displayed great courage and determination in his many sorties and had had two combats with enemy night fighters.

Flight-Lieutenants Gardner and Mulcahy both won their awards for the "utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty" with which each completed numerous operations.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Gardner, of Wickham Street, Newmarket, he joined the Air Force seven years ago.

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His brother is a police constable at Sherwood. He and other relatives went to Ipswich this morning.

This morning relatives of the airmen killed went to Ipswich, where a R.A.A.F. funeral is being arranged.

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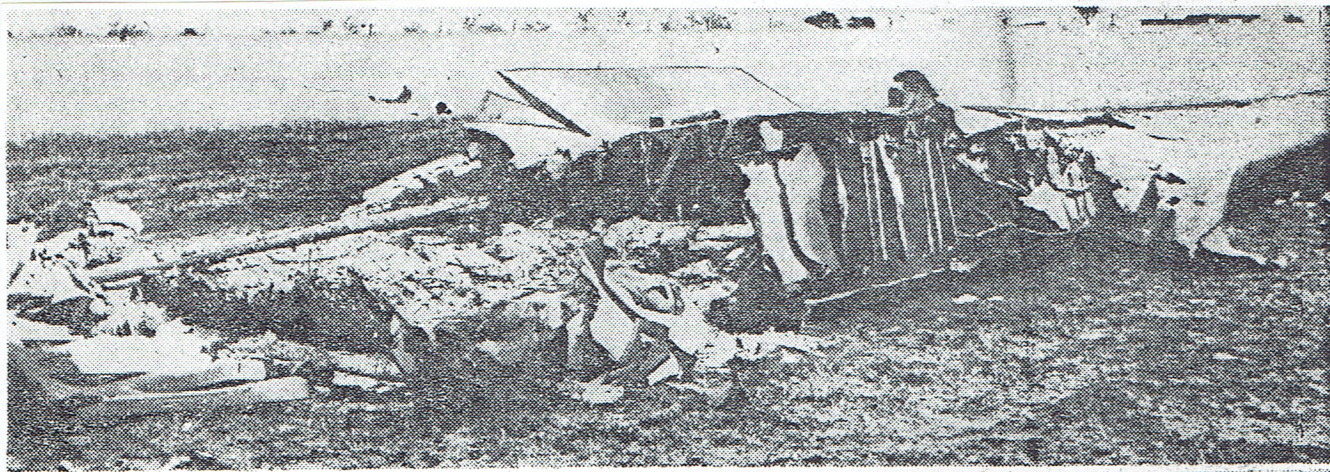
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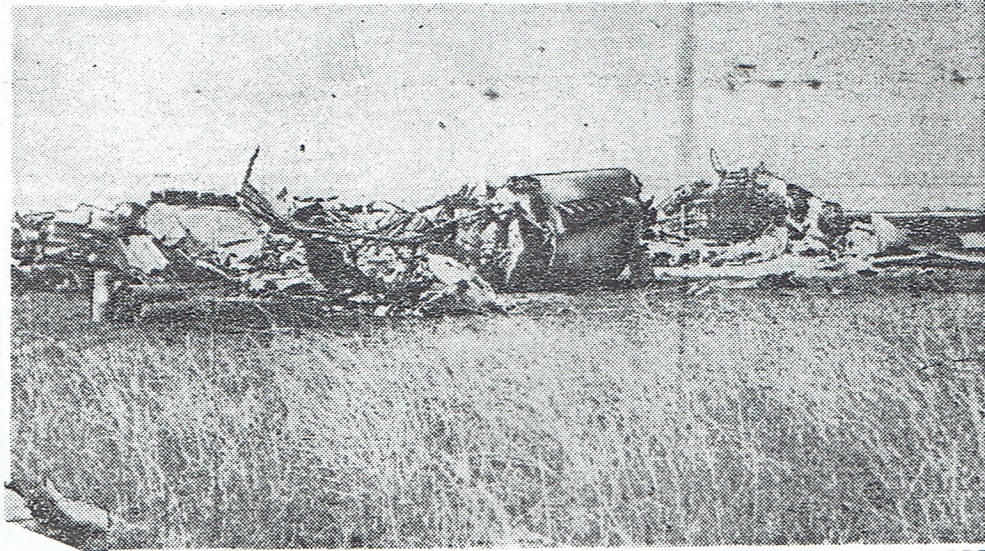
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MASS BURIAL OF BOMBER CRASH VICTIMS

BRISBANE, Mon: A Lincoln bomber circled overhead while 2,000 people watched the mass burial at Lutwyche Cemetery, Brisbane, of the 16 victims of the RAAF bomber crash at Amberley last Thursday.

Earlier funeral services had been held at St Stephen's Catholic Cathedral, and St John's Church of England Cathedral, for the victims.

Thousands of people lined the streets and stood outside St John's Cathedral when the 16 coffins, each draped with the Union Jack, were drawn up in front of the Cathedral on gun-carriages.

High Air Force, Army, and Navy officers, led by the Chief of Air Staff (Air Marshal Jones) placed wreaths on a symbolic coffin.

24.2.48



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