

FINDINGS OF THE COURT.

The Court having considered the evidence, viewed the scene of the accident and viewed a motion film of the crash finds that:

(4)

1. HUDSON aircraft A16-38 was totally destroyed by impact followed by fire at BAIRNSDALE Aerodrome at 1500 hours on 27th OCTOBER, 1942.
2. Starboard mainplane of A16-38 failed in mid air causing the aircraft to roll violently to the right and crash.
3. The four occupants of the aircraft were as enumerated on the front page of Form P/P.21, attached hereto, and were killed instantly in the crash as a result of severe head injuries and multiple fractures.
4. All occupants of the aircraft were on duty at the time of the accident.
5. So far as the Court could determine, no person or persons can be held responsible for the failure of the starboard mainplane of A16-38 in flight.
6. The Court cannot express an exact opinion as to the reason for the failure of the starboard mainplane of A16-38. The remains of the mainplane are undergoing technical examination at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Aeronautical Division, the results of which investigation will be made available to the D.T.S. Branch, Air Board.
7. There is no evidence to indicate sabotage.
8. The aircraft was on charge to Flight Lieutenant J.W. NANKIVELLE (4638) complete with the equipment enumerated below:

- 6 off Ground strips signalling
- 1 off Axe, small
- 1 off Screwdriver 10"
- 1 off Ball pane hammer
- 1 off Spanner, adjustable 6"
- 1 off Pliers S.C.
- 1 off Knife, clasp
- 1 off Can, oil, flat
- 2 off Tyre levers, 10"
- 3 off Pegs, ground angle iron
- 1 off Saw, hack
- 1 off File S.C. half round
- 1 off Outfit repair vulcanising
- 4 off Thermos flask
- 3 off Dixies
- 2 off Bags, signalling
- 2 off Cans, water (2-gallons each)
- 1 off P.W.A. Kit
- 28 off Spark plugs
- 1 off Emergency rations
- 1 case Engine spares (Case No.1 E)
- 1 off Lamp signalling Aldis
- 1 off Parachute Dominion Type No.4632
- 2 off Harness, Parachute Dominion Type No.5180 and 5193
- 1 off A.T.5-A.R.8 Wireless equipment complete.
- 3 off Guns, Vickers. G.O.

S. Keith Thompson s/c
President of the Court.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES ACT CRS A705-
ITEM 32/14/129

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