

Seven Killed In R.A.A.F. Bomber Crash

SMH 4/9/45
Seven R.A.A.F. personnel were killed when a Beaufort bomber struck high tension wires near the township of Narrandera and crashed yesterday morning.

The Beaufort, which was piloted by Warrant-Officer Jorgenson, of Queensland, and had six passengers—all airmen attached to a repair and maintenance unit, stationed at Narrandera—struck the high tension wires while flying low over the western portion of the town.

Full details of the victims are not yet available.

Those killed were:—

- Warrant-Officer Jorgenson.
- Warrant-Officer T. Griffin.
- Flight-Sgt. Currie,
- Sergeant Bailey.
- Sergeant Whittington.
- Corporal H. Shung (Narrandera)
- Leading Aircraftman Norton.

BROKE INTO PIECES

The plane broke into several pieces. The main body of the plane crashed into an irrigation canal, one of the engines landed in the backyard of a nearby house, and the petrol tank smashed through the wall of an adjacent cottage.

Warrant-Officer Jorgenson arrived at Narrandera from Queensland in the aircraft on Sunday, bringing with him as a passenger L.A.C. S. G. Rendell to attend the funeral of his mother.

While waiting at Narrandera to return, Jorgenson took the six airmen for the flight over the town which ended in tragedy.

The victims will probably be buried to-morrow in the military cemetery at Narrandera.

*SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
4.9.45*

7 Airmen Killed In Crash

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4/9/45*

NARRANDERA, Monday.—Seven members of the R.A.A.F. were killed when a Beaufighter crashed today.

The plane crashed into the canal at the western end of Narrandera at noon

The killed were:

- Warrant-Officer Jorgensen, Qld., pilot.
- Warrant-Officer T. Griffin.
- Sergeant Bailey.
- Sergeant Whittington.
- Flight-Sergeant Currie.
- Corporal Hilton Shung.
- L.A.C. Norton.

One of the plane's bullet-proof petrol tanks was hurled through the side of a cottage about 100 yards away, where a woman was giving her small child its lunch.

The tank smashed the outer wall, crossed a bedroom, and knocked a hole in an internal wall without bursting.

The plane was on a low flight over the town. It banked round over the canal and did not recover

In the crash, it tore down high-tension wires, cutting off electricity to the town for about two hours.

Four bodies were recovered from the water in the canal by police under Sergeant C. Rosser, using grappling irons.

An Air Force funeral is being arranged.

TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY) 4.9.45



NARRANDERA AIR

SMH. CRASH 4/9/45.

NARRANDERA, Tuesday. — The home towns of the seven R.A.A.F. personnel who were killed when a Beaufort bomber struck high-tension wires near Narrandera on Monday have now been ascertained.

They are: Warrant-Officer Jorgenson, Brisbane; Corporal H. Shung, Narrandera; Leading Aircraftman Norton, Dimboola, Victoria; Sergeant Whittington, Geelong, Victoria; Warrant-Officer T. Griffin, Forbes; Sergeant Bailey, Tempe; Flight-Sergeant Currie, Punchbowl.

The victims will be given a military funeral at Narrandera to-morrow, Wednesday, at 2 p.m.

*SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
5.9.45*