

**END OF VETERAN
CATALINA** *4/9/45*

MELBOURNE, Sunday. — The first R.A.A.F. Catalina to operate in the South-west Pacific area, A-24-1, ended a record of approximately 3,000 flying hours when it crashed at Darwin, says a statement issued to-day by the Department of Air.

There were no casualties. The aircraft, which hit a sandbank during take-off and sank in seven minutes, was one of a detachment of nine R.A.A.F. Catalinas staging to Singapore under the command of Wing-Commander W. K. Bolitho, D.F.C. of Mannum (S.A.), and carrying members of No. 2 Australian P.O.W. and Internee Reception Unit, and medical and Red Cross supplies.

[A Darwin message says the sunken Catalina was carrying a supply of penicillin as well as personnel and was captained by Wing-Commander Bolitho. It crashed on Thursday. Another Catalina arrived at Darwin from Rathmines (N.S.W.) on Friday with replenished stores and went on to join the others at Labuan (Borneo) en route to Singapore.]

*SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
3.9.45*