

FLYING-BOAT CRASHES Eight R.A.A.F. Men Killed

MELBOURNE, Friday.—Two R.A.A.F. officers and six airmen were killed when a Catalina flying-boat crashed early this week.

The Minister for Air, Mr. Drakeford, who revealed this to-night, said the aircraft, which had just taken off on a night reconnaissance flight, struck a hillside and became a total wreck.

- Those killed were:—
- Flying-Officer Lincoln James Sloan, captain, 29, single, of Brisbane.
 - Flight-Lieutenant Nelson Prior Reid, second pilot, 26, married, of Brisbane.
 - Corporal Neville Lawrence Ernst, 23, single, of West Maitland.
 - Leading Aircraftman Charles John Matheson, 33, single, of Eldorado, Vic.
 - Corporal Eric John O'Donnell, 23, married, of Leonora, W.A.
 - Aircraftman George Robert Peterson, 33, single, of Adelaide.
 - Aircraftman Keith Nighell Sidey, 21, single, of Kuridala, Qld.
 - Aircraftman Arthur Wallace Magee, 23, single, of Rose Bay, N.S.W.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
13.12.41

8 DEAD IN AIR CRASH

MELBOURNE, Friday. — Two R.A.A.F. officers and six airmen were killed when a Catalina flying-boat crashed at Port Moresby early this week.

The Air Minister (Mr. Drakeford) announced this tonight.

He said the aircraft, which had just taken off on a night reconnaissance flight, struck a hillside and became a total wreck.

- Those killed were:—
- Flying-Officer Lincoln James Sloan, captain, 29, single, of Brisbane.
 - Flight-Lieut. Nelson Prior Reid, 2nd pilot, 26, married, of Brisbane.
 - Corporal Neville Lawrence Ernst, 23, single, West Maitland (N.S.W.).
 - Leading-Aircraftman Charles John Matheson, 33, single, Eldorado (Vic.).
 - Corporal Eric John O'Donnell, 23, married, of Leonora (W.A.).
 - Aircraftman George Robert Peterson, 33, single, of Adelaide.
 - Aircraftman Keith Nighell Sidey, 21, single, Kuridala (Qld.).
 - Aircraftman Arthur Wallace Magee, 23, single, of Rose Bay (N.S.W.).

Reconnaissance Plane

Flying-Officer Sloan was a commercial pilot before he enlisted in the R.A.A.F.

He was captain of the aircraft, which had been engaged for some time on important reconnaissance work.

The second pilot (Flight-Lieut. Reid) enlisted in the Air Force in September, 1939, and was trained at Point Cook.

Leading Aircraftman Matheson, who entered the Air Force in May, 1940, received his training at Victor Harbor, Laverton, and Rathmines.

Aircraftman Sidey enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in Sydney late in 1940.

He attended the signals school at Point Cook and the service flying training school at Rathmines.

Aircraftman Magee also enlisted in Sydney. He was trained at the Ultimo School for technical training, at the signals school at Point Cook, and at Rathmines.

Corporal Ernst was a fitter before he joined the Air Force. He was trained at the engineering school at Ascot Vale, the air observers' school at Cootamundra, and at Rathmines.

Corporal O'Donnell enlisted at Richmond (N.S.W.) in February, 1940. He was trained at the school of technical training, Ultimo, an engineering school in Melbourne, and was later posted to Archerfield and Rathmines, and finally to Port Moresby.

Aircraftman Peterson, who enlisted in Adelaide, was trained at the radio airgunners' school, Ballarat, the armament school, Cressy, the bombing and gunnery school, Port Pirie, and the service flying training school at Rathmines.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 13.12.41