

# 23 Die; Air Smash Near Brisbane

MELBOURNE, Monday.—Twenty-three Service personnel were killed when an RAAF transport plane crashed near Brisbane early on Saturday morning.

The victims included three WAAAFs. There were no survivors.

The plane, which was flying from Brisbane to Sydney, crashed into heavy timber shortly after taking off in the darkness and was totally destroyed.

In addition to the three WAAAF's, the victims included 17 members of the RAAF, an Australian Army officer, and two United States Army officers.

RAAF and WAAAF casualties were:—

- 400454 Flying-Officer Alexander Kenn Arnold, 27, of Malvern (Vic.).
- 414233 Sgt. Joseph Hammond, 29, Keats-street, Cannon Mill (Q.).
- 413001 Sgt. Lyle Carter Morgan, 24, Northumberland-ave., Stanmore (NSW).
- 92533 Cpl. Ruth Ada Hills, 19 Gent-street, Petersham (NSW)
- 93345 Cpl. Violet May Gunning, 25 Dillarynnia-avenue, Heathcote, South Coast (NSW).
- 106735 ACW Florence May Jackson, 25, Anzac-avenue, Ryde (NSW).
- 408563 Sgt. Robert William Tylden Chisholm, 26, Warburton (Vic.).
- 52398 LAC Terence Joseph Kelly, 36, Oakleigh (Vic.).

### RAAF PASSENGERS

- 52396 LAC C. P. E. Sly, 41, East Malvern (Vic.).
- 9268 Sgt. M. I. T. Jarvis, 23, Horsham (Vic.).
- 42766 Cpl. T. K. McDowell Watt, 26, Brunswick, (Vic.).
- 70555 P/O A. Patlock, 36, Hamilton (Vic.).
- 39009 P/O D. A. Blackley, 31, Woodville (SA).
- 52714 LAC T. W. Beckley, 28, Richmond (Vic.).
- 47736 LAC J. E. Chinner, 20, Moorak Gardens (SA).
- 31806 LAC K. O. Paton, 34, Newton (Tasmania).
- 65202 LAC G. F. Waters, 33, Edgewater, Billyard - avenue, Elizabeth Bay (NSW).
- 2702 Sgt. J. Atherton, 34, Albert-street, Spiers Point (NSW).

An immediate inquiry is being held into the cause of the crash.

The Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) today said the tragedy came as a great shock to him and to the Federal Cabinet as a whole.

The accident was inexplicable on the first information today, but he could assure the public that a full and searching inquiry would be held.

The infrequency with which such crashes occurred not only accentuated the tragic circumstances of this one, but it also served to indicate the care and efficiency with which aviation was conducted in Australia, he added.

Mr. Drakeford extended his deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of the victims.

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