A65-106

Air Crash Rescue

Party Toiled in Rain and Darkness

Although the crash was
known at 7.25 p.m. it was
not until five hours later
that the first survivor
was removed from the

wreckage and brought to
Pearce.
The four crew ' members
were killed but three others
—two , ground crew, and a
civilian — escaped with
minor injuries.
KILLED.

Flying Officer W. J. Bow-
den, single, captain of
the aircraft, of Wilcox
Avenue, Tuart Hill, W.A.
Flight-Sergeant Peter Fre-
derick Davis, 26, co-pilot,
of Manhingford Road,
Elizabeth, S.A., formerly
of Elwood, Vic.
Flying Officer R. G. White,
navigator, of Coronation
Street, Petersham, New
South Wales, and
Flight-Lieutenant A. J.
Cook, 37, signaller, 'of
Burrupa Avenue, North
91enelg, S.A.
INJURED.

Leading Aircraft:flan Wil-
liam Miles, 31, engine
fitter, of Harvey Road,
Elizabeth, S.A.
Alrcraftrnan Robert An-

thony •Lieper, fitter, of
Brown Avenue, Nedlands,
W.A., and
Mr. Neil Alan McBaln,
of the Department of
Supply, who lives in,
Eaton Road, Somerton
Park. Adelaide.
Flight Sergeant Davis was
married four months ago
and 'was posted from Vic-
toria in recent weeks.
Flight Lieutenant Cook
was married and had two
children aged 10 and 12.

Thrown Out
The three survivors were
all in the tail section of the
fuselage and two of them
were thrown out on impact.
One crawled back into the

wreckage to release the third
man who was still strapped
in his seat.
The lour crew members

were apparently killed as
the plane ploughed into a
hill.

A farmer who guided the
first party to the wreck said
the aircraft went up in a ball
of flame when it hit the hill-
side, lighting up the valley
below.

Mod up to a foot deep
stopped even four-wheel
drive vehicles and when an

R.A.A.F. wagon became
bogged with two casualties

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ERTH, Tuesday
hampered the
crashed about

base last night.

. — Steep hills and muddy conditions search for the R.A.A.F. Dakota • which

six mile south-east of Pearce R.A.A.F.

a Land • Rover went ahead

-with the other casualty.
At the scene of the crash
wreckage was strewn over
an area 150 yards long and
about 25 yards wide.

Hit Trees
The aircraft, which had
Just set course for Edinburgh
in. South Australia, lopped
off trees for about 100 yards
before the port main plane
apparently fell off and the
fuselage smashed into a
tree.

The fuselage was split in
half and the front was

found telescoped and
mangled about 10' yards
away. •
A fierce fire had swept
through the wreckage and
the starboard main plane
was a mass of fused metal
when the rescue party
reached the scene.

Two gullies at-the base of
the hill made the country
impassable to vehicles and
the rescue team slogged up-
hill over thick scrub and
rocks.
The stretcher bearers

bringing the injured out
found the country even
worse as they slowly inched

the injured men over rough
ground.
Six men were needed on

each stretcher to bring them
down the hill and as one
man tired another took hiS
place.
Two of the injured men
were placed in an R.A.A.F.
four-wheel-drive vehicle and
the other was carried an-

other quarter of a mile to
a Land Rover.
The air force truck became
bogged soon after starting
and the Landrover went
ahead to Pearce.

Four pressmen were among
those who took part in the
search for the wreckage, and
two of them later carried
stretchers from aktranded
vehicle near the crash.
The search started soon

after the crash was reported
and off-duty men from the
base fanned out in their
own cars through the hills
trying to find the wreckage.
More than 40 R.A.A.F.
men took part in the search
and a party stayed through-
out the night guarding the
wreckage.
Experts were flown from
Canberra last night to in-
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