

24 Rescued From Sea ^{Talk} After Transport Crash ^{22/9}

From DOUGLAS LOCKWOOD

LABUAN (Borneo), Friday.—Twenty-one passengers and the crew of three of a Douglas transport plane which crashed in the Celebes Sea yesterday were rescued unharmed at 1.30 a.m. today.

The passengers were R.A.A.F. time-expired men returning to Australia for discharge.

TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)

22.9.45

The plane was about 200 miles from Tarakan, and flying above clouds, when the tail began to fall apart.

The plane rolled over on its back, and the passengers were thrown to the roof.

Although the machine fell quickly, the pilot (Flight-Lieut. Arthur Burns, of Western Australia) regained control by using the trimming flaps, and was able to ditch it.

No one was injured, and passengers and crew had time to get out three dinghies, a radio, and supplies.

Kittyhawks and Beaufighters were sent out from Tarakan immediately.

The survivors were spotted first by a Catalina from Morotal, piloted by Flight-Lieut. George Wilkinson, of Vaucluse, Sydney, at 4.30 p.m.—six hours after the crash.

The sea was too rough for the Catalina to alight, so a launch was sent from Tarakan.

At 1.30 a.m. the launch picked up the 24 men and a dog which was being taken home as a pet.

