

6 KILLED IN CRASH OF DAKOTA

BRISBANE.— Six men were killed—Three Australian civilians and three Dutch airmen—when a Dakota transport crashed in flames in the sea off Stradbroke Island yesterday afternoon. The victims were employed by the Netherlands Air Force and had taken the Dakota on a normal test flight.

After leaving Archerfield aerodrome at 2.22 p.m. no radio contact was made and the cause of the crash is not known. About 30 people on Stradbroke Island saw the plane go into its death dive. They stated it was flying very fast at the time and appear to be trying to land. Either the tail or a wing fell off and it crashed into the ocean. An aerial search of the locality revealed only a large patch of oil floating on the surface of the water. There was no trace of wreckage.

The victims were:—V. Mole, of Brisbane, Norman Dow, of Brisbane, C. Rachadours, of Brisbane, all Australians; and Lieutenant Snits van Burget, pilot, Staff major S. Rookmaker, radio operator, and Sgt Major H. Bekema, flight engineer.