

DAKOTA CRASHES INTO SEA; 6 KILLED

BRISBANE, Wednesday.—Three Australian civilians and three Dutch airmen were killed this afternoon when a Dakota plane crashed in flames into the sea off Stradbroke Island.

The plane, which belonged to the Netherlands East Indies Air Force, sank immediately.

The Australians killed were: **V. Mole**, married, of Annerley, Brisbane; **Norman Dow**, married, of Hamilton, Brisbane; **C. Bachadours**, married, of West End, Brisbane.

All were civilian maintenance mechanics employed by the Netherlands East Indies Forces at Archerfield.

The Dutchmen killed were: **Lieutenant Smits van Burgst**, pilot; **Staff-Major S. Rookmaker**, radio operator; **Sgt.-Major H. Bekema**, flight engineer.

Heavy seas prevented a rescue squad leaving the island, which is in Moreton Bay, about 40 miles from Brisbane.

An N.E.I. plane later circled the area and sighted a large quantity of

oil on the water, but no wreckage.

A police launch left Brisbane at 7 o'clock tonight.

It will shelter at Stradbroke Island until daylight, when the sea is expected to be calm enough for a search of the area.

Pilot of the plane was Lieutenant Smits van Burgst.

He is married to an Australian girl and lives in Bonny Avenue, Clayfield, Brisbane.

First news of the crash came from Mrs. G. Rahnsleben, who lives on Stradbroke Island.

She said: "I saw a two-engined plane with smoke pouring from it racing towards the coast.

"When the plane was about a mile

"When the plane was about a mile north-west of the island a burning wing, or the tail, fell off.

"The whole plane then burst into flames and dived into the sea."

Police Launch Forced Back

Mr. J. Durbridge, fisherman and bus proprietor on Stradbroke Island, rushed a rescue squad in his bus to Boat Rocks, nearest point on the island to where the plane crashed.

Mr. Durbridge said some of the men volunteered to man small boats, but it was obvious the plane's occupants had perished, and it would have been foolhardy to risk lives in the heavy seas.

Mrs. Rahnsleben notified police on Dunwich Island of the crash.

The police there attempted to put to sea in a launch, but they were forced to abandon the attempt.