

Six Perish In Dakota Nosedive Into Sea

BRISBANE, Wednesday.—
Two Australians and four Dutch airmen were killed when a Douglas Dakota twin-engined plane disappeared in the sea in flames a mile north-west of Point Lookout, Stradbroke Island, at 2.40 p.m. today.

An aerial search of the locality afterwards revealed only a large patch of floating oil. There was no trace of wreckage.

Eye-witnesses saw the plane fall to pieces in the air and nosedive, with flames and smoke streaming from it.

The victims were employed by the Netherlands East Indies Air Force and had taken up the Dakota on a normal test flight.

Rough seas and heavy rain prevented a search by boat to-night. A police launch left the city today for a search in the morning.

The Dakota left Archerfield at 2.22 and made no radio contact on the flight. The cause of the crash is therefore unknown.

About 30 people on Stradbroke Island saw the plane go into the death dive. They stated it was flying very fast at the time and appeared to be trying to get to land; then either a wing or the tail fell off and it crashed into the ocean.

The victims were:—

AUSTRALIANS

V. Mile, married, of Annerley, Brisbane.

Norman Dow, married Hamilton, Brisbane.

DUTCHMEN

C. Bachadeurs, married, West End, Brisbane.

Sergeant-Major S. Rookmaker, radio operator, Toowong, Brisbane.

Sergeant-Major H. Bekema, flight engineer, Sandgate.

Lieutenant Smits van Burgat, pilot of the plane, of Clayfield, Brisbane.