

Gruelling Six-Day Journey

RAFT AND FOOT IN ROUGH
COUNTRY

PET DOG COOKED AND
EATEN

Katherine, April 1.—After a gruelling six-day journey by raft and foot over some of the roughest country in Australia, four of the seven Dutchmen who were in the Dutch navy Dakota which crashed east of Katherine Gorge, reached Katherine to-day. None of the plane's occupants had been injured. Except for a few infested abrasions on their legs the men were in excellent health and spirits.

On the last night out from Katherine Lieutenant van Nifterick shot a pet dog named Bataan which he was taking on the trip with him, threw it on the fire and cooked it. The four men then ate it. They had lived on oranges and two tins of condensed milk for four days.

The plane made a forced landing following the failure of the electrical system. The chief pilot said that he had two hours' supply of fuel left when he landed but he considered it wise to put the plane down because there was stormy weather ahead and he did not want to make a crash landing after dark. He had landed in the first clearing he saw, sending all the other members of the crew to the rear of the plane in an attempt to minimise possible injuries.

The next day he suggested that four members of the party should attempt to reach Katherine by raft, because planes would be searching many miles away and the party might never be found. Four men had set out the next morning.

morning.

An overland rescue party is fighting its way upstream with horses over the roughest part of the trip in an attempt to reach the three men who are staying at the plane. It will probably not reach there until to-morrow or Thursday.