

Second plane crash kills 6

DCA searches for cause

MOUNT ISA, Sunday. — DCA officials began inspecting at dawn today the wreckage of the Lockheed Hudson plane which crashed at Tennant Creek yesterday killing all six people on board.

One of the inspectors said there was no recognisable section left of the twin-engine World War II-type plane.

He said that it was possible the bodies would be taken to Darwin for further pathological tests.

Those killed were Captain Kenneth Arthur Rowlands, 41, of Engadine, Sydney, the pilot; David Augustus von Ploennies, 25, of Potts Point, Sydney, navigator; Robert Rowston, 24, of Manly, a pilot; Leslie Sheffield, 45, of Picnic Point, a senior technician; James Terrence Moles, 32, of Woollahra, a technician; Mervyn Matthews, 11, of Tennant Creek.

The boy, son of a Tennant Creek butcher, had gone on a joyride in the plane.

The crash came within 48 hours of the air disaster at Winton, Queensland, in which an Ansett-ANA Viscount crashed with the loss of 24 lives.

The men in the Tennant Creek crash were all members of an aerial survey

bers of an aerial survey team.

The plane had been on a routine survey flight and was returning to land.

The last call heard by air control at Tennant Creek airport came from Captain Rowlands at 9.10am.

The plane was seen to fly over the airport in a westerly direction on its way to the end of the runway but when it failed to land, emergency procedures were put into operation.

A small aircraft took off to search for the missing

plane and in less than five minutes found the wreckage about a mile west of the airport on a direct line to the runway.

When the Department of Civil Aviation officers arrived on the scene there was nothing they could do. The six people were all dead.

One thrown clear

Surprisingly the aircraft had not caught fire when it plunged into the ground. But the crumpled mass was almost unrecognisable. A wheel lay on its side less than 20 yards from the mass of wreckage and a broken windscreens was not far away. One body was thrown clear of the wreckage and landed under a small tree about 30 yards away.

The other bodies were still in the aircraft.

The plane was owned by Adastral Airlines, Sydney, and had been operating in the area on aerial surveys for two months.

The DCA Inspector of Air Safety, Mr Ian Leslie, flew straight from Winton to Tennant Creek to carry out an investigation.

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He was in Winton to help in the inquiry on the Viscount crash.

Mr Leslie knows the Tennant Creek area well, having been a former man-

ager director and pilot with Connellan Airways.

BRISBANE. Sunday. — Commonwealth air crash investigators have completed a preliminary examination of the burned out engine of the Viscount airliner which crashed at Winton last Thursday.

They have found nothing to indicate it could have been the same bearing fault which caused another Viscount to make an emergency landing with its engine in flames in Victoria last year.

A spokesman for the Department of Civil Aviation investigation team said this tonight.

Wreckage sifted

The burned out engine will be taken to Melbourne this week for a closer scientific examination. Department technical experts today continued sifting the wreckage of the main section of the fuselage.

Late tonight they still had not found the data recorder which they hope will give them important information on the plane's last minutes.

An official said the flight recorder was most likely in the mass of wreckage of the front section which would protect it from any further hazards.

At the moment the emphasis of the investigation was on the distribution of wreckage and examination of exposed wreckage which would run the risk of being affected if any bad weather broke, he said.

MELBOURNE. Sunday. — A young pilot was killed yesterday when a gyrocopter plunged 50ft to the ground at Mt Scobie, five miles west of Kyabram. He was Geoffrey Max-

well Sutherland, 21, of Union Street, Kyabram.

The gyrocopter, a type of motorless helicopter, was being towed by a utility.