

**DARWIN SPECIAL DARWIN SPECIAL DARWIN SPECIAL**



This aerial shot shows the Base maintenance hangar which was demolished by Cyclone Tracy. The Dakota, lying on the road outside the residence of the Officer Commanding, was chained to ringbolts inside the hangar but was swept out by the force of the wind. The remains of an Iroquois helicopter lie under the debris of the hangar (More pix inside).

## New CAS Appointed

Air Vice-Marshal James Anthony Rowland, DFC, AFC, BE, Air Member for Technical Services on the Air Board, has been appointed Chief of the Air Staff, RAAF.

He will take up the appointment with the rank of Air Marshal on 21 March, 1975, for a period of three years, succeeding Air Marshal C. F. Read, whose three year term as CAS ends on that day.

An outstanding pilot with a distinguished war record, AVM Rowland is the first member of the RAAF who joined the service in the Second World War to fill the post of Chief of the Air Staff.

He was born on 1 November 1922 and on enlistment in the RAAF in May 1942, trained as a pilot in the Empire Air Training Scheme. Posted to Britain, he became a "master-bomber" in the RAF Pathfinder Force and was taken prisoner of war while flying a heavy bomber which crashed during a raid near Frankfurt on 6 January 1945. He received an immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with effect from the same date. After the war he resumed

engineering studies at Sydney University and on graduation as a Bachelor of Engineering. (Aero) rejoined the RAAF.

In May 1950 he was posted to the Aircraft Research and Development Unit after graduating as a test pilot with a first class pass at No. 8 Em-



pire Test Pilot course in Britain.

He successfully completed the RAAF Staff College course in 1956 and in January 1958 was appointed Chief Technical Officer at Aircraft Research and Development Unit with associated test flying duties.

From January 1961 until his return to Australia in July 1964 he held the appointment of Senior Technical Staff Officer with the RAAF Mirage Fighter Mission, RAAF Staff, Paris.

In February 1969 he was appointed Senior Technical Staff Officer at Headquarters, Operational Command and during 1971 completed the Royal College of Defence Studies course in the United Kingdom.

He was appointed Director-General, Aircraft Engineering, at Department of Air in March 1972 and later the same year Air Member for Technical Services with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal.



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## A Job Well Done

High praise for the tremendous efforts put in by RAAF personnel in rallying to the support of victims of Cyclone Tracy has been widely expressed, ranging from the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Read and the Minister for Defence, Mr. Barnard, through to many of the victims themselves who were airlifted by the RAAF out of the disaster area.

When first news of the magnitude of the disaster reached southern states, early on Christmas Day, it was the RAAF which provided the initial major response. Despite the fact that the Cyclone struck at a time when most personnel were on leave, there was an immediate response.

Without the necessity for an official recall, large numbers reported back for duty and worked unstintingly at a variety of tasks to ensure a maximum relief effort.

On the flying side the highest praise must go to Nos. 36 and 37 Squadrons which on 28 December had built up to a staggering 44 flights into Darwin with 19 aircraft on one day. Both aircrew and ground crew must share in the praise for this magnificent effort, which was continued through to 4 January when the urgency of the emergency airlift began to subside.

Everyone connected with the RAAF relief operations, can reflect with pride on a job "WELL DONE".