

African Plane Crashes; 25 Believed Dead

EAST LONDON, South Africa (UPI)—A South African Airways Viscount airliner crashed into the Indian Ocean Monday night near this port city, apparently killing all 25 persons aboard.

Police reported that 21 bodies were recovered from the sea, and a spokesman for the airline said there were no reports of any survivors hours after the crash.

The 4-engine, turbo-prop plane was about 15 minutes short of touchdown in East London when it went down in bad weather.

Airlines sources said the plane was making its landing approach when it ran into low clouds and rain.

THE DISASTER was South Africa's worst plane crash. The second worst occurred in 1951 when a South African Airways plane crashed in the Ingeli Mountains in northeastern Cape Province killing 17 persons.

Reports in East London said one of the passengers aboard the Viscount Monday was I. A. Lauwe, the South African manager for Twentieth Century Fox.

It was the second major air disaster in Africa this month. On March 5, a Brazilian Varig jetliner crashed near the Liberian capital of Monrovia on the West African Coast, killing 56 persons.

No immediate cause was listed for Monday's crash.

Rescue ships crisscrossed the crash site Monday night for possible survivors.

THE STATEMENT SAID the plane was carrying 20 passengers and a crew of 5 on a domestic flight from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg via East London and Blomfontein.

The plane was approaching East London when it crashed in the ocean off Kasyer's Beach, a small fishing resort about 25 miles southwest of East London.

The bodies were picked up by a rescue flotilla that included South African navy minesweeper, tugboats and merchant ships.

The British-built Viscount has a capacity of more than 70 persons.

Jet Down Safe After Emergency

LONDON (AP) — London Airport called a full emergency standby after police reported a Boeing 707 jetliner zig-zagging strangely on its flight across Kent County.

The plane landed safely. Pan American said it was diverted to London on a New York flight from Paris because the nose-wheel door jammed. The zig-zagging was part of the pilot's attempt to free it.