



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, INDIA

Squadron-Leader William Hickley Lovell O'Neill, M.C., was born at Nasirabad, India, in 1890, and after passing through Wellington College and Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the Indian Army. His regiment was one of the famous Frontier Force regiments, then known as the 51st Sikhs F.F., now the 1st Sikh Battalion, 12th Frontier Force Regiment. This regiment formed one of the 28th Frontier Force Brigade, which was the only Indian Brigade which did not include a British regiment, a testimony to the high opinion held of the Frontier Force. The Brigade took part in the defence of the Suez Canal early in 1915, and then was sent to put matters straight at Aden, which it speedily accomplished. The brigade then formed part of one of the relief columns which tried to relieve Kut. Lieut. O'Neill was Brigade Signalling Officer, but had to take command of his regiment when all the other officers were killed or wounded in the battles of January, 1916. In the attack on Sannaiyat in the next April, Lieut. O'Neill was wounded twice, but was back with his regiment by September. In January, 1917, he joined the R.F.C. as an observer, but after being injured in a crash, he rejoined his regiment in Palestine in 1918, and took part in the final victory there. He received his Military Cross that year. In 1919 he received a permanent commission in the Royal Air Force and resigned from the Indian Army. Next year, however, he passed through the Staff College at Quetta. Lately, he had been stationed at Karachi Aerodrome. He embarked on R 101, and was proceeding to India to take up the appointment of Assistant Director of Civil Aviation.

**Valued Sympathy**

The disaster to R 101 has called forth expressions of sympathy from all parts of the world which are very highly

Mourners' cars in Aldwych.  
(FLIGHT Photo.)

"Daily Mirror" Photo.)

**AUSTRALIA'S LOSS**

In Squadron-Leader William Palstra, M.C., B.A., p.s.a., the Royal Australian Air Force has lost a very brilliant officer. He served during the war in the 39th Battalion, Australian Infantry, and afterwards in No. 3 Australian Squadron of the Flying Corps. He won his Military Cross while in the Infantry. During the attack on the Hindenburg line in September 26-29, 1918, he highly distinguished himself as a pilot of No. 3 Australian Squadron. After the war, he went to Melbourne University, graduated B.A., and was then employed in an administrative capacity at the University. On August 10, 1925, he was commissioned as Flying Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. He was promoted to Flight-Lieutenant in 1927 and to Squadron-Leader in 1930. Last year he went through the R.A.F. Staff College at Andover and subsequently was appointed Australian Liaison Officer at the Air Ministry until last month. He then took a course in air navigation at Calshot. He leaves a widow and three children.

