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TRAGEDY: The American Dakota C47 aircraft.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Standing in memory of a fateful night



DISCOVER YOUR BACKYARD
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IN TODAY'S Discover your own Backyard we are heading down to a small creek about 80ks south of Rolleston and just along Wyseby Rd, the road leading into Carnarvon Gorge National Park.

This creek, Carnarvon

Creek tells a story that is very much a significant piece of local history, a site you can still visit today and reflect on a time when the world was at war.

On Tuesday morning, November 16, 1943 an American Dakota C47 aircraft left Batchelor Airfield in the Northern Territory, headed for Archerfield Airfield in Brisbane.

When the C-47 left Batchelor Airfield it carried an American air-crew of four, an American sergeant and 14 Australian soldiers.

The aircraft landed at Daly Waters airstrip where it picked up another passenger then flew on to Cloncurry where three more Australian soldiers boarded the aircraft. After departing Cloncurry and bound for Archerfield research shows that the aircraft broke up in mid-air when caught in a violent storm over Rewan Station south of Rolleston killing all on board.

Mr J.N. Wells, of Rewan Station, found the wreckage two days later scattered over a significant area along the north side of Carnarvon

Creek.

Mail bags, kit bags, clothing, equipment and portions of the aircraft were scattered in a line 250 metres wide and about 3 kilometres in length along the north bank of the creek in an easterly direction away from the fuselage.

Today this site remains as a memorial in dedication to these men, both Australian and American, and if you are in the area, drop in and have a wander through the remnants of the C47 Dakota that stands sentinel as a reminder.