

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

31 August 2022

WINTER 2022

Sunderlanders and friends.

I apologise for the late production of this Winter 2022 Newsletter. It has been a long time since we commemorated Anzac Day but the pressures of work and Covid have delayed my best efforts to produce the Newsletter.

Just before Anzac Day and after my previous Newsletter we lost 411160 Flt Lt Ron MacKellar of 461 Sqn. one of the stalwarts and long-time Treasurer of the NSW Branch. Ron and my father shared a room in the Mess at Pembroke Dock, a fact I was only made aware of long after my father's passing. Ron and Peter Jensen were part of the driving force to have the Memorial Walls installed at Rathmines. Thank you Ron for your dedicated service to the Sunderlanders cause and in particular the NSW Branch.

This year we were back to some degree of normality when commemorating Anzac Day. More details are provided in the Past Events below.



Our new Sunderland Banner depicting both 10 and 461 Squadrons on the same banner were paraded at a number of far spread locations. The Victorian members took part in the March in Melbourne, the NSW members paraded the banners in the Sydney march as well as at a service at Rathmines. Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire was able to have the banner incorporated into the march in Mildura. The new light weight construction made the logistics of arranging numerous Cadets to carry the banner somewhat easier.

The Air Force Association in Victoria has advised that the Return to Point Cook Pilgrimage will be held on Sunday 6 November 2022. A letter from AFA Victoria President Max McGregor can be found in Coming Events.

The Annual Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner is planned for December and details are listed in the coming events.

The Poole Flying Boats Celebration PFBC has recently produced two Newsletters as part of the Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of RAF Coastal Command at Poole. Part One of a series of PFBC's new articles titled RAAF 461 was published in August with Part 2 following in September. I found the article of great interest as my father featured in the article albeit with a

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Hattam. Please address all, correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,
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minor error for his rank and service number. Bruce Buls was Captain on my father's first operation in Sunderland T9109 on 31 October 1942. My father was moved to Col Walker's crew in the famous Sunderland N for Nuts EJ134, in January just before Bruce Buls and his crew were lost in Sunderland T9085 UT-A over the Bay of Biscay on 21 January 1943. I have included a photo of Sunderland T9085 on the slipway at Hamworthy (Poole) with the caption – "UT-A" The Hell Ship. See last page of this Newsletter.

I have reproduced the article at the end of this Newsletter.

This very interesting article is of considerable interest to 461 Sqn Sunderlanders.

PAST EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 2022 – 25 April 2022

Anzac March - Melbourne

This year we had a different form up place FUP in Collins Street. Being the first full march post covid, the organisation left a bit to be desired. Luckily I had the banner in place early as we initially stepped off 45 minutes ahead of the assigned time only to halt around the corner in Swanston Street for nearly an hour. The remaining Sunderlanders who marched found us lined up in Swanston Street and joined the banner. Having the new banner requiring only two banner bearers was fortuitous as we would not have been able to obtain the twelve Cadets required for the two individual Squadron Banners.

There was a good turnout of Sunderlanders to accompany our new banner on its inaugural march. 10 Squadron Sunderlanders were David White, Angus Scott (David White's grandson), Pam Longe Elaine Craig, Allan Stark all the way from Queensland and 461 Squadron Sunderlanders were Pam Gibson and Rick Hattam. We even had a RAAF Korea Conflict supporter accompany us as in the FUP confusion he had missed his group.

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Waiting to Sep Off

L to R: Allan Stark, Elaine Craig, Angus Scott, David White, Rick Hattam, Pam Longe

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Following the march, Sunderlanders moved on to the 10 and 461 Squadron Memorial trees in the Shrine Gardens. The photo features the 10 Squadron Sunderlanders contingent at the 10 Squadron Tree.

As usual, Pam Gibson had previously laid a wreath at the 461 Squadron Memorial tree.

10 Squadron Group at the 10 Squadron Memorial Tree, Shrine Gardens

L to R Alan Stark, David White, Angus Scott, Elaine Craig, Pam Longe

Anzac Day Commemoration – New South Wales Branch.

The NSW Branch had Sunderlanders commemorate Anzac Day in both Sydney as part of that service and also at the Sunderlanders Memorial at Rathmines.



Sydney Sunderlanders Contingent

L to R: Elizabeth Hampshire Burnett, Annique Burnett, Matt Prowse, Samantha Flaherty, Charlie Burnett. On the other side of the banner from left to right, Beau Flaherty, Anne Pike-Flaherty, Greg Head, Denis Smith.

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Hattam. Please address all, correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam, 5 Waurn Park Court, BELMONT VIC 3216, Phone 0418 994 759; rickyh461@gmail.com

Anzac Day Commemoration – Mildura.

Despite considerable effort by Marilyn Marrows Voullaire was not able to march with the Sunderlands banner due to the policy of the Mildura RSL to only allow veterans to march with their respective banners. The banner was however paraded with other banners.

COMING EVENTS

RETURN TO POINT COOK CEREMONY – SUNDAY 6 November 2022

Letter form AFA VIC President.

Dear Colleagues,

Just a quick reminder about our Return to Pt Cook Ceremony this year.

After the past few years of COVID restrictions and thus not being able to conduct our Pilgrimage, we are back and planning the Annual Service for **Sunday 6th November 2022**.

The Ceremony will be conducted in the morning at Pt Cook, followed by a luncheon at the combined Officers/Sergeants Mess, Laverton Base, then Guest Speaker, Hugh Dolan, will give a presentation, completing the eventful day.

All members and partners welcome.

If you wish to attend, and haven't already advised the office, please contact Barb in the office, by email, office@afavic.org.au or phone, 9813 4600, **as soon as possible**.
Look forward to seeing you all there.

Regards,

Max McGregor
AFA-Vic President

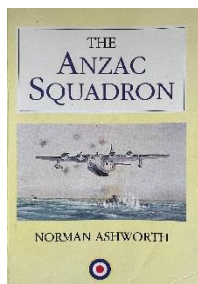
2022 DUDLEY MARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY DINNER, THURSDAY 1 December 2022

We have just been advised that the 2022 Dinner will be held on Thursday 1 December 2022. The format is expected to be similar to previous dinners, three course dinner with drinks at bar prices. Details of timings will be available closer to the event. The venue is the Air Force Room at the Naval and Military Club, 111 Hutt Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

Hopefully the relaxation of Covid travel and assembly restrictions will permit interstate travellers to attend.

SHOPPING SECTION

“ANZAC SQUADRON”



This book which contains a wealth of information about Squadron members relates the story of 461 Squadron the “ANZAC SQUADRON” by Norman Ashworth. Copies are available from the Secretary at a cost of \$55.00 per copy, postage and handling.

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“MARITIME is NUMBER 10” Book – Currently out of stock

Sunderland Lapel Badges – “Sunderland” lapel badges are available from the Secretary at \$8.00 ea. packaging and postage paid.

10 and 461 Squadron Plaques

We now have both 10 and 461 Squadron Plaques in stock. The cost is \$70.00 including GST, postage and packaging.

ELECTRONIC REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. Face Book Group

Facebook group that might be of interest to some Sunderlanders – Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. It’s a Private Group, but often has Sunderland, RAAF 10 and 461 Sqn content. Worth following.

Websites –

www.pooleflyingboats.com
www.ayemaam.com

VALE

Ron MacKellar, 461 Sqn.

LEST WE FORGET



NEWS REPORTS



Sadly on 16th. July a *Canadair Water Bomber* crashed fighting a huge Spanish forest fire in a mountain area just over the border in Portugal. This was one of 11 aircraft involved in this hazardous op - where the pilot was tragically killed, but the rescuers saved the Spanish co-pilot who was pulled from the wreckage (see above) and was resuscitated.

[Despite the sad accident, perhaps a waterbomber could be based in Poole Harbour to tackle fires in our precious heathlands + countryside]



The next Edition of *our* Harbour Times features Norman Wilkinson and his links with Poole Art *See Adjacent:-* RAF Coastal Command Sunderland Flying Boat rescuing crew from a downed RAF Liberator - by Norman Wilkinson (National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)

BOURNEMOUTH
AIR
FESTIVAL
1-4 SEPT 2022
LAND AIR SEA

Terry and Stephanie Mobley are looking so greatly forward to being at this year's B'mth Air Fest ! Please join with the Friends of PFBC in sending our very best wishes to Terry & Stephanie Mobley, as Terry continues to be very unwell... Terry importantly represents the varied interests of all PFBC's HLMs

Since 2008, B'mth's Air Fest has brought in 10½ million Festival goers into our area. BCP estimates that revenue has exceeded £30 Million pa. - which has benefitted local businesses and the 3 Towns' Economies: The Fest has won international acclaim and so many awards for outstanding achievements + enjoyment !

Bertie Bowman with the Friends of PFBC

On Saturday, the 3rd. of September, between 11am and 5pm, Bertie will be representing the Friends of PFBC which he heads up... at Poole Bay Rotary Club's Event "Maritime Perspectives" (This exhibition is being organised by Lilliput's own John Exton) It is being held at the Lighthouse Theatre by the Arndale Centre just over from Poole's Bus Station. Bertie will be in the Foyer There will be local community organisation stalls set up in the Lighthouse Theatre Foyer for anyone to enjoy throughout the day



A full day of activities for all the family: drama, film festival, sea shanties, storytelling, pirate ship building + more, inc. Flying Boats

CINEMA (Tickets: Events - Lighthouse (lighthousepoole.co.uk))

Maritime Perspectives boast a fascinatingly packed free film festival held in our Cinema, allowing audiences to get up close and personal with live Q&As.

11am - 11.35am: 'Beyond the Horizon' Pip Hare's Vendee Globe Race 2020, with live Q&A following the video.

12pm - 12.45pm: Poole Community Play 2023. 'Poole - Newfoundland Links' Angel Exit Theatre

1pm - 2.50pm: 'Louisia: An Amazing Adventure'. Famous west country sea rescue, with Q&A following the film.

3pm - 3.45pm: 'Our local waters' Dr Simon Cripps, Poole-based marine biologist gives a presentation.

4pm - 5pm: Open Forum. Thanks & Good Luck to Poole Rotary

ALL CONTACTS PLEASE Poole Flying Boats Celebration

For the attention of:-

- Parkstone Library Buildings
- Britannia Road Parkstone
- Poole Dorset BH14 8AZ

* Please note: PFBC Office is hoped to fully reopen asap re: notice from BCP Libraries New Volunteers are Welcome For membership of Friends... and renewals contact Bertie Bowman. Bookings of tickets for PFBC Celebrations contact Harry Alexander, and all other general enquiries - PFBC's Office usual reg'd. address. PFBC Email: info@pooleflyingboats.com Websites: www.pooleflyingboats.com www.ayemaam.com

Poole Flying Boats Celebration

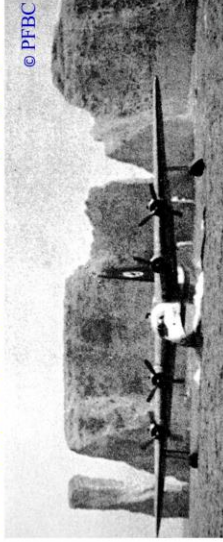
Charity No. 1123274 PFBC

THE PICK A BACK PAIR



PFBC Friends Newsletter: August Special 2022

www.pooleflyingboats.com 'Coming over & over to our Place' Judging by the number of people upon miles of all our local beaches it's clearly been a bumper Summertime - mainly with gin-clear skies: Yet the 2 parts/spells of the heatwave have certainly taken their toll as with tinder-dry conditions much of our countryside was vulnerable! According to Forestry England, smouldering barbeques & campfires have been found in Wareham Woods, devastated by fire 2 years ago. There were similar incidents in 2021, and then in this year there were acres destroyed on Canford Heath and Upton Woods Nature Reserve. Most recently it was the turn of stunningly beautiful Studland Heath, as far as Redhorn. There a pair of Flying Boat trolley wheels still stick out of the water - where these 'failed in retrieving' a stranded boat ! Just a short distance away, are silted remains of Poole's 58ft Lighter, that was once deployed as a Seaplane Carrier from the Great War era, now the subject of a Research Project led by Bournemouth University. Sadly far-too-often, stretches of our Clifftops also have scorched scars so that comparisons have been drawn with the hot Summer of 1976, for our Harbour was ringed by smoke from Brownsea, Arne & Upton! Of course, that was the notable year of our last visiting Flying Boat ... With Flights around Poole Bay & IoW, Southern Cross with Capt. Blair + his wife (Maureen O'Hara) this Event was a significant Celebration! Check out PFBC's Website Archive for the full story and great photos...



PFBC

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Taking part in this initiative of an 'A-S Flood', on the 21st March '43 *C for Charlie* taxied to a runway in the Parkstone Channel (then the shipping lane of Poole Harbour) from the holding moorings nearby. The Sunderland had been prepared at the *Lake Shore Base* of RAF Hamworthy and was observed by the Signaller and other Officers on watch, from the balcony of newly instated Salterns Flying Boat HQ. Circa 9pm, when a flight-path was lit by flares secured to dinghies in a line + with the RAF upwind launch & crash tender in attendance, *Charlie* headed southwards into a steady onshore breeze for uplift. *Towards potential life-threatening encounters with enemy fighters (lunkers 888) and/or severe storms.*

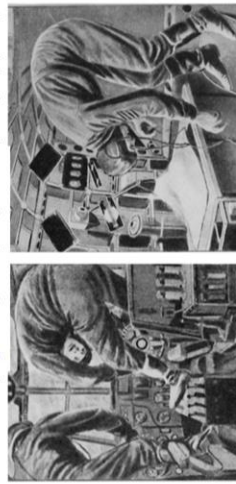
Then disaster struck... Instead of the flight to Biscay, *Charlie* slewed to the left with the port-wing dipped. On that side a propeller loss caused *Charlie* to head towards Salterns Mole before hitting sand/mud flats. These caused *Charlie* to break in 2. Thankfully rescuers were able to reach the mainly uninjured crew! There was a quick evacuation as *Charlie* remained fanned with explosives as aviation fuel gushed out. The aircrew had been horrified that the accident could have ended fatally in the aircraft striking a stone pier: in the following dawn, this was seen to be the remaining lefthand-side of the imposing concrete seawall - that once divided Salterns Marsh/Blue Lagoon from the Harbour, until breeched by a stick of bombs. [Bombs had straddled the Lilliput area of Poole with Salterns + FB Moorings, on 11 May 1941, that had damaged BOAC's Flying Boat Guba...+ sank the *Maia* - used for shuttle services to Foynes, Eire.]



C for Charlie was a forlorn sight, a complete write-off, though parts were salvaged to repair other aircraft... After these 2 extraordinary incidents with *Charlie*, **Fred Manger** (total 46 ops), **Phil Davenport** (30) and **Donald Kennedy** (31) continued on 461 Sqn - next when At RAF Pembroke Dock, S. Wales (after leaving RAF Hamworthy), along with lots more 'life-shaping' experiences, eventually returned to Australia having survived the War... *Whereas 83 of their comrades on 461 were lost; inc. 22 allocated to RAF Hamworthy [Sept. '42 + Jan. '43].*

Facilities at Poole had been hurriedly put together/sorted-out, and were mostly 'ad hoc' at the outset! Yet in just the course of a year RAAF Hamworthy despite the lack of a hangar, was extolled as being exemplary; an example for visiting VIPs of Station's good practice.]

Just 4 hours from RAF Mount Batten on its mission, 'C for Charlie' encountered deteriorating weather... In poor visibility, this aircraft flew directly into severe turbulence associated with a huge storm. There was blinding rain, within an increasing vast updraught, which challenged the 2nd. Pilot Phil Davenport, who'd taken over control, when Capt. Fred had gone to 'the dunny' (Australian slang for loo). There was a horrific surge upwards which Phil D. tried to counter by pushing the aircraft's nose downwards. Fred mercifully managed to get to the controls just before *Charlie* passed thro' the storm's core, without time to readjust the angle of *Charlie* + speed, the dreadful result was an inevitable stall! Despite heroic effort *Charlie* was now forced into looping the loop. Everything was completely topsy-turvy.



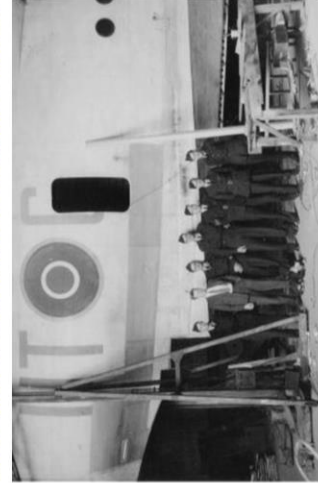
Which Navigator Kennedy had an almost impossible task! Imagine how very difficult it was for the two pilots
The crew hung on upside down, with contents flying around - even kitchen utensils + navigational charts. *Fighting to upright the very heavy Sunderland, miraculously one-by-one the 4 engines kicked in!*
With an urgent need to secure all, restore order/check-out *Charlie*, the only option was to return home, so Navigator Donald Kennedy, skilfully plotted a course for Plymouth (+ Poole to arrive on the 5th.)

The majority of the 11 aircrew would stay together, continuing in the main with *Charlie* to March '43 - with almost 2 dozen missions having been successfully completed in this critical period of WW2. These ops focussed on both *Anti-Submarine & Anti-Shipping Patrols* along with an *Escorting of Convoys*. A further type of effort was the combined op to 'Flood' a zone with radar transmissions for a week+ from multiple aircraft to deter the U-boat menace, by forcing them to submerge far more often: So this disrupted their transit from the occupied French Ports across the Bay of Biscay out into the Atlantic.

PFBC's 80th Anniversary Year Celebration for RAAF Hamworthy
During 2022/23 PFBC is celebrating an 80th. Anniv. of RAAF Hamworthy where after the selection of Poole Harbour to accommodate an RAF FB Sqn, preparations were underway for the arrival of RAAF 461.

Part One 461's Tour of Duty was bookended by 2 extraordinary events, with astonishing stories of survival:
In one of the first RAF Coastal Command ops from Poole Harbour involving a Sunderland Flying Boat an aircrew of RAAF 461 Sqn., in UT-K was airborne from the locality-Lake Base of RAAF Hamworthy very early on Thursday 3rd Sept. at 0150 hours - designated for convoy escort in the S.W. Approaches. After a 45 min. flight to RAF Mount Batten, the captain - Fred Manger and some of the aircrew transferred from 'K for Katie' (then shuttling crews back and forth), to another Sunderland UT-C aka 'C for Charlie'. that was scheduled to proceed with the mission, due eventually to reach Gibraltar - to refuel & return, *Charlie* was also identifiable by registration T9111 from manufacturer - *Blackburn Company* (Dumbarton in Scotland).

The still fledgling Squadron, which had been formed at RAF Mount Batten in Plymouth on Anzac Day, in that year on the 25th. April '42 (from the quickly expanding RAAF 10 Sqn), was allocated to Poole. At the beginning of Sept. 2 Officers along with 130 other ranks with heavy baggage had arrived at the nearest station Hamworthy Junc. by special train, whilst a convoy inc. two Queen Mary Transporters bringing some frames, parts & other equipment made a way to the Lake Shore locality. The remainder, with most of the aircrews, flew in directly from *Plymouth Sound to Poole Harbour*. It's noted that on arrival Sqn operational strength was 7 Aircraft, with 6 serviceable.



The size of this large Flying Boat - a Sunderland Mark I with RAAF 461 Squadron (that was a relatively heavy aircraft) is apparent, upon the stocks, when drawn-up on the hardstanding of RAAF Hamworthy

PFBC's 80th Anniversary Year Celebration for RAF Hamworthy Part Two

There were **three supreme challenges** for RAAF 461 Sqn. when operating from Poole Harbour from Sept. 1942 to April 1943:
The homebase - with a highly significant deficit of hangar facilities at RAF Hamworthy to effectively maintain the Sunderland Flying Boats.
The weather - especially encountered in the south-west approaches and the vast distance down to-and-around the Bay of Biscay.
The enemy - with threats from long-range aircraft mostly *Junkers-88s* ... and the U-Boat armaments which were being rapidly upgraded.
Each of these challenges significantly impacted on the 12 Aircrews and their 9 (10) RAF Coastal Command's Sunderland Flying Boats... Tiredness affected health; much stress and strain were offset only by camaraderie and overriding sense of purpose (far from Australia) !

The dispersal of RAF facilities, around the 4 miles shoreline of the eastern flanks of the Harbour, did not help: from RAF Hamworthy's Lake Base to the Officers' Mess at the Harbour Heights Hotel near to Canford Cliffs; via the Station's HQ - Parkstone Road (later Salterns); Sergeants Mess and Communications Hub at Poole's Dolphin Hotel; the RAF's Marinecraft Unit at Parkstone Yacht Club; ... and numerous billets in Parkstone, Oakdale, Penn Hill, Whitecliff, Lilliput and Poole (inc. offices, stores, workshops and the guardhouse in Lake Estate); St. Joseph's Convent & Longfleet NAAFI; WRAF Hostels, Ashley Cross; ... The Sick Bay at *Folly Cottage*, Lilliput, and also several garages for Motor Transport at Lake & Parkstone were shared with **BOAC Poole**.

On arrival of 461 (the Anzac Sqn.) in September 1942, when RAF Hamworthy was deemed to be operational, there was improvisation in the use of a Field Kitchen as there was no canteen facility - just eating 'al fresco' ... Canvas tents, wooden tables and benches were set up in the pine trees abutting Ham Common nearby to Lake Base close to the large tanks of the fuel depot serving the RAF in Dorset, that had already been a target of the Luftwaffe !

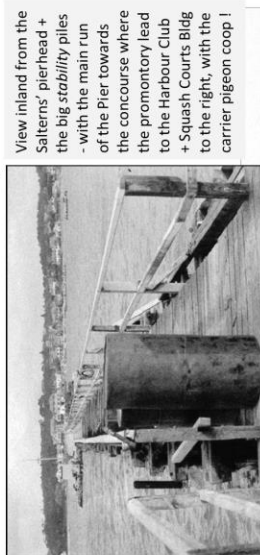
The WAAF catering members had the use of Dorset shepherds' and roadmenders' wheeled huts (- much sought-after items of today).

With weather inevitably deteriorating in October, Major Kilminster, the Chief Engineer of Coastal Command negotiated with the Dorset Yacht Co. (- adjacent to the Lake Base) use of the shipyard's dinghy shed as a canteen, where a *Tyrley-Williams mobile cooker* was later eventually installed by the start of the very cold month of November. A large marquee was assembled on the hardstanding at Lake Base, to give some 'basic cover' for the ground staff and the engineers... A thick blast-wall was completed to protect the Lake Estate from the prefabricated *Garage*, which now acted as a store for ammunition. Also, a further batch of 17 sites were appropriated by the War Dept. to support RAF Hamworthy as a Station, as the focus would switch from the HQ, in units along Parkstone Rd., to Salterns, Lilliput etc.



Key to the 'programme of works' was a Victorian Wooden Pier at Salterns (1867), leading from a promontory of reclaimed land that had been infilled by discarded pottery/ brick shards, and adjacent to Salterns Marsh. This industrial configuration (with its hey-day in WW1) had formed the site of the Harbour Club built in 1934...

Salterns' Pier reached out to the Parkstone Channel, which was the main shipping route to the Port of Poole, and the chief Flying Boat Runway(s) for the RAF, and Imperial Airways/BOAC civil-air Flying Boats in WW2. With the start of war it was requisitioned by the Army. This had just avoided demolition as it was employed in *servicing the Refugee Camp for Low Countries Boat People who had arrived in Poole*, that had been constructed upon Brownsea Island.



Principal tasks were to replace/reinforce vintage waterline timbers, create a lookout post on the pierhead and to fit a set of steps with handrails to access the *landing pontoon*, that was pre-formed by MEXE, Christchurch. After storm damage on 31st Jan. (damaging the pontoon and 2 flak barges) all was ready by early February.

With the transfer of RAF Hamworthy's HQ from several buildings along Parkstone Rd. (opposite *Poole Park*) to flats in *Salterns Court* as the Station's Offices and other departments to the *Harbour Club* site at Salterns, the opportunity was provided for members of 461 and the RAFCC Station to come together as a more cohesive unit... *There was also a better social scene (with BOAC's staff), using the requisitioned Blue Lagoon Club and Café.*

The timing of this was rather providential as January 1943 was a low ebb for RAF Coastal Command, Poole: There was a formidable struggle to keep the 9 Sunderlands of RAAF 461 Sdn. operational ! At RAF Hamworthy, some maintenance was carried out on a wind-swept hardstanding or *choppy moorings*, whilst the significant tasks required a flight to + lengthy stays at RAF Stranraer & RAF Wig Bay in Scotland, and RAF Pembroke Dock in s.w. Wales etc.

With the start of 1943, and the prospect that many longstanding issues about Poole were being addressed, the Squadron had been dealt 'a devastating blow' from a very violent storm, through the loss of Sunderland T9085 (UT-A), with all 11 Aircrew (at 1500hrs).

It was on 'Fateful Friday' of 21st Jan. that *UT-A* and *UT-C* (*see H.T. No.57) were airborne from RAF Hamworthy; with *UT-A* paired by another Sunderland of RAAF 10 on a special equipment op (= a.s. flood) to deter U-Boats. Indeed, 4 Sunderlands from RAAF 10 and 461 were *out-west* in deteriorating weather & approaching storm !

Whilst a signal was sent for an immediate return to RAF Pembroke Dock since Hamworthy and Mount Batten were engulfed by very difficult conditions, a trio responded... whereas *UT-A* had already sent an SOS (- a single radio transmission) then complete silence.

The Sunderland Flying Boat's carrier pigeon on board, never made it to land to bring a final message for HQ... A dramatic search for *UT-A* was triggered by RAF Coastal Command that involved aircraft in awful conditions. This included 2 Hudsons that were forced to ditch (where their Aircrews were rescued) - but no sign of UT-A !

The captain - **Flight Lieut. Bruce Buis** had been giving a largely new crew (inc. 9 *Australians*) more experience on his 22nd such mission from his time at both Mount Batten & Hamworthy, and was sadly missed by RAFCC.

[Alongside 461, *BOAC Poole* had also lost a popular, experienced capt. - John Lock on *G-AFAC Golden Horn* on the 9th Jan... destroyed by fire over R. Tagus, Lisbon with 1 crew (out of 6) and 1 pax (9) as survivors.]
 When endeavouring to deter the U-Boat menace, the Aircrew of *UT-A* had paid the ultimate sacrifice, yet cumulative events were impacting upon the effectiveness of the Kriegsmarine campaign

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Poole Flying Boats Celebration

Charity No. 1123274

PFBC

THE PICK
A BACK
PAIR



2021
PFBC Friends Newsletter: Autumn 2022

www.pooleflyingboats.com

'A Life well-lived... and much-loved!'

Daybreak on Thursday, 8th, Sept. issued in 'gloomy' weather that lasted all day, as the worrying news re: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had a sad conclusion.



[8th, Sept. has been the date when The Nativity of Mary the blessed mother of Jesus, has traditionally been celebrated over centuries as a Feast Day, that was once regarded the third holiest by the Church.] 1926 - 2022

With the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh in April 2021... and then Her Majesty's great fortitude in celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June of this year (with Paddington and his 'Ma'am-alade' sandwich), there was the poignant memory that the Royal Couple in the course of their grand tour had famously flown in a Flying Boat (Aotearoa II) boarded at Suva, Fiji for a flight to Tonga (The Friendly Islands) and a 2 days' stay there in Dec 1953:



Queen Elizabeth II Visits Tonga, Dec. 1953 - Bing video
with her glorious smile, which had already greatly charmed those who had attended the Coronation earlier in June '53; when riding in an open carriage and waving, despite the rain!

See such lovely videos on: Queen Elizabeth II Visits Tonga, Dec. 1953 - Bing video
* The Queen's last flight from Edinburgh to Northolt was tracked by 6 million; with her coffin in an RAF Globemaster C-17 for 1hr 12 mins. So many logged on that it caused the website FlightTracker24 to go down
PFBC proclaims allegiance to King Charles III... "Long Live The King"

Can you help? PFBC received an enquiry from Richard Hodgkinson: The answer to his question has managed to stump everyone so far! With regards to his father - Vic's service on RAAF 10 Sqn in WW2, when based at RAF Mount Batten (sometimes putting into Poole)... In turn Richard's question had been prompted by an email that he had just received from Jennifer Thurston, the daughter of "Thursty" Thurston and Penny Furners the daughter of "Attie" Wearne... Richard writes and explains: "Thursty", "Attie" and my dad, Vic, were best mates in the RAAF, training together and travelling to the UK to fly in 10 Sqn in WW2. Jennifer wrote in her email: "I wonder if you know anything about the old flying boats carrying bells with them. One of my father's adventures during the war involved renting a diving suit in Malta to see if he and a mate could rescue valuables from their Sunderland that had been bombed and sunk in Malta Harbour. He didn't find anything very important, it seems, but brought up this bell which has been kept by a cousin of mine in Western Australia... Have you any ideas why a flying boat might have had a bell on board?"



My favourite photo - of Vic with his carrier pigeon en route (?) to the NAAFI at Jernyclyffe, near to Mount Batten, Plymouth Sound
A book was referred to is "My Flying Boat War" to be published in the UK by Pen & Sword next Spring and is Vic's record of his RAAF experiences and photographs, plus extracts from his Log Books - between 1937 and 1946. The book will also contain the content of two articles in Aeroplane magazine on Vic's civil flying days with BOAC. "Richard

ALL CONTACTS PLEASE Poole Flying Boats Celebration
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For the attention of: Parkstone Library Buildings, Parkstone, Poole Dorset BH14 8AZ
* Please note: PFBC Office is hoped to fully reopen asap re: notice from BCP Libraries New Volunteers are Welcome
For membership of Friends... and renewals contact Bertie Bowman. Bookings of tickets for PFBC Celebrations contact Harry Alexander, and all other general enquiries - PFBC's Office usual reg'd. address.
PFBC Email: info@pooleflyingboats.com
Websites: www.pooleflyingboats.com www.ayemaam.com

- 20nd RAAF 461 Squadron's T9085... (UT-A) with eleven Aircrew Members:
- Flt Lt B.L. Buis 25 (A)403129 (Bruce Lydon Buis) "Bulsie" Captain
 - Flt Off H.L. Osborne 23nd (A)403600 (Henry Lawrence Osborne) First Pilot
 - Pit Off J.H. Moore 29 (A)411801 (Jack Henry Moore) Second Pilot
 - Pit Off N.L.C. Dent 21 (A)411428 (Hal Ian Comer Dent) Navigator
 - Sgt R.A.S. Tucker 33rd (A)6241 (Roy Ambrose Stewart Tucker) Flt Engineer
 - Sgt J.W.J. Gill 26 (A)403091 (John William Joseph Gill) Flt Mech / Ag
 - Sgt O.S. Filmer 27 (A)404915 (Noel Henry Roybould Hart) Wop / Ag
 - Aircraftman R.E. Eirick 20 (A)30954 (Alexander Edward Eirick) Flt Mechanic
 - ... and with the RAAF's...
 - Sgt P. Evans 35 (B)1201919 (Percy Evans) RAFVR Wop / Ag
 - Pit Off E. Bradley 23 ** (B)942553 (Eric Bradley) RAFVR Wop / Ag
 - (Note ** Previously incorrectly listed by various sources inc. AWM and PFBC as: Flt Sgt E. Bradle (B)942551 (Eric Bradle) RAFVR Wop / Ag)



AWM ref: SUK 10385
AWM's Text for this photo reads as follows:
" Pembroke Dock, Wales, C.1942. Members of 461 Sqn RAAF.
L-R Sgt R Hatnam, 411428 P/O (later F/O); Hal Ian Comer Dent, lost over Bay of Biscay 21 Jan 1943; 403129 Bruce Buis (lost 25 January 1943); 5942 Sgt A.J. Taylor; Sgt E.B. Gallagher; Front: 405083 Sgt A. Miller; 6241 Sgt R. Tucker "

PFBC previously advised AWM that > this photo was taken at the Lake Base of RAF Hamworthy - as in the background this is confirmed by a bungalow on the corner of Lake Drive - just beyond the ATURM in the Lake Estate... > also that Bruce Buis was lost 21 Jan. rather than the 25 on their website...
PFBC has long advocated for a quiet, small area of public green space to be dedicated to all the Members of RAAF 461 Squadron who once served at RAF Hamworthy, Poole during WW2; with a special mention of those who lost their lives... A corner spot of Green Park open space with the Air Shelter underneath near Longfleet Rd. (opp. The Shah PH) overlooking the Harbour has been considered an appropriate place...



**The Hell Ship "UT - A" T9085 (Acft lost 21 Jan 1943, Flt. B. Bulls)
Taken on the slip way at Hamworthy.
The houses behind were Radio Section and Electrical.
Nissen huts were Airmen's Mess and Cook House.**

Photo from 401562 Flt Lt Ricky Hattam's Album