

## UNCLASSIFIED

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### **4 Oct 44 - Last Douglas Boston A-20 delivered to the RAAF**



**22SQN Bostons in-flight, c 1942**

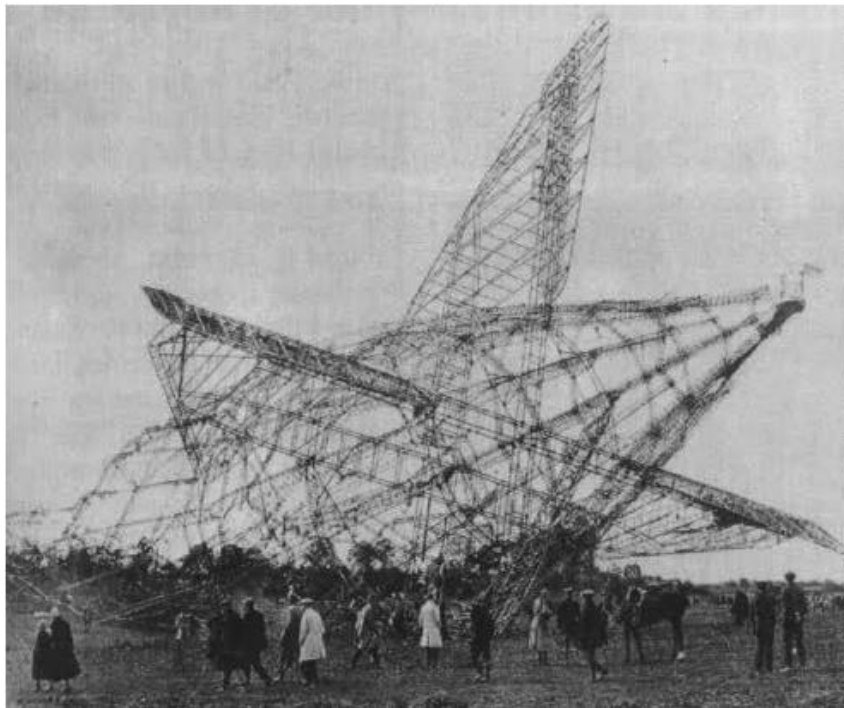
The prototype Douglas DB-7 first flew in December 1938, and subsequent versions were the most produced of all American aircraft in the "attack" category. RAAF Bostons included Mk IIIs (A-20C) with transparent noses for bomb-aimers, and Mk IVs (A-20G) with enclosed gun-carrying nose. The 69 RAAF Bostons were numbered A28-1/40 and A28-59/78, and were taken on strength between 29 March 1942 and this day. The Bostons served with No 22 Squadron where their operations became known as "Boston Tea Parties" and individual aircraft became legendary. Wing Commander Learmonth's "She's Apples" set a South-West Pacific bombing record; Flight Lieutenant Williamson's A28-5 was belly-landed with a bomb load and was back in operations within hours; and - most famous of all -- Flight Lieutenant Bill Newton's A28-3 crashed off Salamaua on 18 March 1943, prior to his posthumous Victoria Cross award. Ironically, 13 Bostons were damaged by an enemy air raid at Morotai on 23 November 1944, at a time when No 22 Squadron had been notified that it was to re-equip with Beaufighters. By 1946, the few remaining Bostons had been either returned to the USAAF or issued for disposal.

#### 4 Oct 70 - Last two F-4 Phantoms arrived at Amberley



Twenty-four F-4E Phantom aircraft were obtained under a lease arrangement with the US, and RAAF personnel attended intensive training on the aircraft with the USAF. The first five aircraft arrived at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland, on 14 September 1970 (see *14 September*) with the final two aircraft touching down at Amberley on this day. Six Phantoms arrived at Amberley on 19 September; seven on 26 September; four on 3 October and the final two -- crewed by Captain Chris Patterakis (USAF) and Flight Lieutenant Lance Halvorson (second last) and Flight Lieutenants Brendan Roberts and Trevor Richardson the last. The Phantom delivery flights were each accompanied by a USAF Boeing KC-135A Stratotanker on the St Louis-George AFB(California)-Hickam AFB (Hawaii)-Anderson AFB(Guam) sectors. The RAAF supplied a No 11 Squadron P-3B Orion for the Guam-Amberley legs providing weather reconnaissance and search and rescue support.

## 5 Oct 30 - RAAF officer killed in *R101* crash



Shortly after 0200 hours on this day, the giant British rigid-frame airship *R101* crashed in northern France while on its maiden flight from England to India. Only eight of the 52 people on board survived. Among those killed were the Air Minister, Lord Thomson, and the Director-General of Civil Aviation, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker. Also among the dead was 39-year-old Squadron Leader William Palstra, MC, an up-and-coming officer of the RAAF. After completing the course at the RAF Staff College at Andover, he had joined the staff of Australia House in London only in July 1930, as Air Liaison Officer to the British Air Ministry. Soon after Palstra took up his new post, the Chief of the Air Staff in Melbourne (Air Commodore Richard Williams) suggested that -- because the new air service being inaugurated by the *R101* was planned to be extended to Australia -- 'our liaison officer in London' should travel on the first flight.

**More here:** [http://www.airshipsonline.com/airships/r101/Crash/R101\\_Crash.htm](http://www.airshipsonline.com/airships/r101/Crash/R101_Crash.htm) and **The Advertiser** press reporting here: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/2471312>

### 5 Oct 43 - Lancaster 'Q' for Queenie crashed at Evans Head



In October 1943, the 4th Liberty Loan campaign was launched to encourage Australians to buy national savings stamps to contribute to the war effort. Official parades, tours, street stalls and cinema advertisements were all used to promote this patriotic responsibility. On this day, Lancaster, A66-1 (ED 930), "Q" for Queenie VI took off on a 4th Liberty Loan Tour of Tasmania, Victoria and NSW. Piloted by Flight Lieutenant Peter Isaacson, the Lancaster overflew Sydney -- and flew under the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 22 October 1943 (see 22 October) -- to raise funds for the War Loan. The cost of a flight in the Lancaster was £100 per person irrespective of age. The Tour came to an end on 26 October 1943, when a wind shift caused "Q" for Queenie VI to crash land at Evans Head in northern New South Wales. The aircraft overshot the runway and Isaacson unsuccessfully swung 'Queenie' to miss a ditch and a fence. One wing struck the ground and both the port outer engine and the undercarriage were damaged. Crew and passengers were very shaken but not seriously hurt.

### 5 Oct 43 - Australian-skippered RAF Hudson sank U-336



Rockets being fitted on rails on a 455SQN Beaufighter



On this day, an Australian-skippered Hudson of RAF No 269 Squadron -- on convoy patrol south-west of Iceland, attacked German submarine U-336. The pilot, Flight Sergeant Gordon Campbell Allsop, fired four pairs of armour-piercing rockets during his approach, while the U-336 gunners returned fire. The U-boat was holed and stopped in a cloud of smoke before sinking by the bow with all hands lost. Allsop was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for this action; an extract of the citation reads *'This airman was the pilot of an aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol. During the sortie, a U-boat was sighted on the surface of the sea and about a mile ahead. Flight Sergeant-Allsop immediately dived to attack. He was met with intense anti-aircraft fire from the U-boat but, despite this, Flight Sergeant Allsop executed his attack with such accuracy that the vessel sank almost immediately, leaving a large patch of oil and survivors in the water. Flight Sergeant Allsop has invariably displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of a high order.'*

### **Who need enemies with friends like this?**

At 306 Radar Station (RS) we were luckier than most stations in that we were close to the airstrip and so there was no supply problem. Our mail was delivered by Wirraway and, needless to say, it was always welcome. One morning as a late comer arrived at the mess for breakfast a lone single engined aircraft approached at tree height and circled the doover. Jack Bryce, a guard just coming off duty, called out, "You beauty ! Here's the old Wirraway. Mail today !!" Len Ralph spotted the red rondels beneath the wings and promptly dashed behind a tree yelling, "Take cover! Jap!" Meanwhile the Jap flew up the valley, wheeled and commenced a diving attack on the doover. Jack Bryce left the mess like a rocket, realised that he could not make the slit trenches, smartly altered course and launched himself into the grease trap near the mess where he landed with an oozy squelch. Fortunately the Ack Ack boys were alert and opened fire causing the Zero to disappear in the direction of Lae. As Jack emerged, a dripping greasy mess, to be hosed down by the cook, some wag remarked, "Funny place to have a swim".

Next day everyone, including the Ack Ack boys across the valley, was on the alert waiting for a return visit by the Zero. Down the valley came the Wirraway with our mail. The very anxious Americans on the Bofors in their gun pit opened fire. One of the RAAF guards ran towards the Americans yelling, "Stop firing you bastards! It's one of ours!" Now the gunner in question was unable to hear as the tracers were homing in onto the Wirraway - action had to be taken. The RAAF guard swooped onto a nearby piece of timber and clobbered the gunner over the head. Fortunately the American's steel helmet reduced the blow to a rude shock. The chatter of the machine gun was changed to a verbal exchange indicating some rather strained international relations.

*Len Ralph in ' Radar Yarns', edited by Ed Simmonds and Norm Smith, August 1991*