

“Liberator Relives”

Grp Capt Carl Schiller (Ret) OAM CSM

B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia Incorporated

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LEST WE FORGET



Annual remembrance service

Our annual B-24 Liberator service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on Saturday 23 March. The service was very well attended, with particularly good representation of No. 21 Squadron. This year Air Force cadets were present in good numbers too, and they marched on No.21 Squadron and No.24 Squadron banners at the beginning of the service and marched them off at the end. Four beautiful wreaths were laid, and a RAAF Band Bugler played the Last Post and Rouse in the wonderful acoustics of The Sanctuary. The service provided time for reflection on the service and sacrifices made by B-24 Liberator crew and ground staff during World War II at a time in 2024 when world peace seems increasingly fragile.



Our Patron, Group Captain Carl Schiller OAM, CSM (Ret'd), giving the Commemorative Address



Group Captain Carl Schiller OAM, CSM (Ret'd) and Lyn Gorman near wreaths laid during the service

MEMBERS MATTER

President's Message

The period covered by this Newsletter has been another busy one for our association.

We were delighted that so many attended our annual Commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 23 March.

We were made very welcome at Nhill Air Show in April. Many people came to discuss the progress of our restoration projects in Werribee. We saw the Avro Anson that is being restored by the group at Nhill. (It is further advanced than our recently started Anson project.)

We have continued to have successful events at our hangar, including visits by car clubs, with more booked in the future.

We are looking forward to our pre-Anzac Day lunch at the hangar as this Newsletter goes to press.

I strongly encourage you to renew your membership once you receive the membership renewal form.

Membership fees form a very important part of our association's annual income.

It would also be wonderful if you can persuade someone to become a new member, as we are always very happy to add to our membership base.

My best wishes to all our readers as we approach the cold months of the year.

Liberator, hangar activities.

In addition to the work by the Electrical team (see below), other work on the interior of the B-24 Liberator is proceeding, including restoration of the flying control cable boxes. One unit has now been restored and installed, one is being restored, and one is awaiting restoration.

Oxford, hangar activities

Work on the main fuselage is proceeding. Also, the work on the framework for the rudder is going well.

Anson, hangar activities

One turret entry door has been completed. The formers underneath the aircraft are being worked on. The undercarriage is being sandblasted. Engine mounts are now being made.

Electrical section activities



The above photo shows the Navigator's desk looking aft. On the starboard side fuselage, the mounting plate with the intercom and Flight Suit Heater has been reinstalled.

The first photo below shows the Forward compartment viewed from the Navigator's desk. Not many recent changes here, but we included this as a before photo as we have a number of items which will be installed shortly, this includes the Bail-Out Bell, which has been refurbished and a new mounting bracket manufactured - as shown in the photo over the page.





Nhill Air Show

Our association was represented at this year's Nhill Air show on 13 April 2024 by Paul Rourke, Norm Morris, Graeme Hore and Lyn Gorman. An upper turret was our main display item, and there was merchandise from the shop for sale and an area where visitors could sit and watch film clips on our television screen. The air show itself attracted a very big crowd, there were outstanding aerobatic displays; our representatives were made very welcome by the organisers; and quite a lot of visitors showed an interest in our display.

Strange, but true

Last year one of our veteran members asked if we had any information on the Liberators that QANTAS operated after the war. Dave Miller has followed up on this and provided the following:

AL 619 *RAF Serial No.

BOAC Serial number: G-AGKT (no VH reg) went to QANTAS on 3 June 1944 and was scrapped at Mascot sometime after. It became a caravan then a hut for rabbits at Dungog, NSW.

***AL 547**

BOAC serial number G-AGKU (no VH reg) went to QANTAS on 24 July 1944 and was scrapped at Mascot in June 1947.

***AL 524**

BOAC serial number G-AGTJ then VH-EAJ for QANTAS on 28 April 1947 and was scrapped at Mascot in November 1950.

***AL 541**

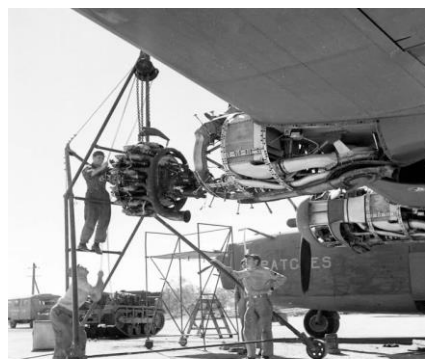
BOAC serial number G-AGTI then VH-EAI for QANTAS 26 June 1947 and was scrapped at Mascot in August 1950. It became a fish and chip shop in French's Forrest, Sydney.



New B-24s lined up for scrapping, Willow Run, 1947



B-24 engine change at Townsville, 1943



Just a reminder

It is time once again to renew your membership.

Those receiving this Newsletter via email will soon be emailed a personalised membership renewal form; those receiving the Newsletter via Australia Post will find a membership renewal form enclosed.

We strongly encourage you to renew promptly as membership fees form an important part of our annual income.

It would also be wonderful if you can persuade someone to become a new member, as we are always very happy to add to our membership base.

Forthcoming events

As this Newsletter is being produced, we are preparing for our pre-Anzac Day Reunion on 20 April when we welcome volunteers and members, including several of our World War II veterans, to the hangar.

For Gabrielle

Why did the belt get arrested? It held up a pair of pants.

I once read a book about glue - I couldn't put it down.

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