

Cover Design by:

121Creative

Lower Ground Floor, Ethos House,
28-36 Ainslie Pl, Canberra ACT 2601
phone. (02) 6243 6012
email. sean.l@121creative.com.au
www.121creative.com.au

Printed by:

Kwik Kopy Canberra

Lower Ground Floor, Ethos House,
28-36 Ainslie Pl, Canberra ACT 2601
phone. (02) 6243 6066
email. print@canberra.kwikkopy.com.au
www.canberra.kwikkopy.com.au

Compilation Alan Storr 2006

The information appearing in this compilation is derived from the collections of the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia.

Author : Alan Storr

Alan was born in Melbourne Australia in 1921. He joined the RAAF in October 1941 and served in the Pacific theatre of war. He was an Observer and did a tour of operations with No 7 Squadron RAAF (Beauforts), and later was Flight Navigation Officer of No 201 Flight RAAF (Liberators). He was discharged Flight Lieutenant in February 1946.

He has spent most of his Public Service working life in Canberra – first arriving in the National Capital in 1938. He held senior positions in the Department of Air (First Assistant Secretary) and the Department of Defence (Senior Assistant Secretary), and retired from the public service in 1975.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (Melbourne University) and was a graduate of the Australian Staff College, 'Manyung', Mt Eliza, Victoria.

He has been a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial for 21 years doing research into aircraft relics held at the AWM, and more recently research work into RAAF World War 2 fatalities.

He has written and published eight books on RAAF fatalities in the eight RAAF Squadrons serving in RAF Bomber Command in WW2.

He is a member of Canberra Legacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Author acknowledges and thanks Kerrie Leech, currently Curator, Private Records, at the Australian War Memorial, for the great contribution she has made ensuring compatibility between my laptop and an AWM computer, so that research material on my laptop can be downloaded, and for her expertise in solving any computer problem that has arisen during the project. Without her contribution, the project would not have got off the ground.



Alan Storr. A WW2 photo of the Author

RAAF WW2 FATALITIES BY CATEGORIES

CATEGORIES	RAAF FATALITIES	HOW ARRANGED
RAAF SQUADRONS SERVING IN RAF BOMBER COMMAND (Nos 455, 458, 460, 462, 463, 464, 466 and 467)	1509	BY SQNS IN DATE OF DEATH ORDER
RAAF FATALITIES SERVING IN UK IN 10 SQN RAAF	153	IN ALPHA NAME ORDER
<u>RAAF FATALITIES WHEN ATTACHED TO RAF SQNS</u>		
RAF SQNS 1 - 50 Vols 1 and 2	603	BY BATCHES THEN BY SQNS IN ALPHA NAME ORDER
RAF SQNS 51 – 100	525	
RAF SQNS 101 – 150	495	
RAF SQNS 151 – 200	310	
RAF SQNS 201 – 300	297	
RAF SQNS 353 – 695 Plus Other Forces	687	
RAF OPERATIONAL TRAINING UNITS	573	
RAF CONVERSION UNITS	498	VARIOUS
NO KNOWN GRAVE	1423	OFFICERS/ AIRMEN IN NAME ORDER
RAAF FATALITIES IN RAF BEAUFORT SQNS & UNITS	39	BY UNITS
TOTAL RAAF FATALITIES BY CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE	7112	
AUST ENLISTED IN THE RAF	26	

Alan Storr (27/11/2008)

REFERENCE SOURCES :

Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Print Outs.

AWM 237 (65) RAAF WW2 Fatalities by Squadrons

AWM 237 (63) Airmen and (64) Officers : Register of Deaths and Burials of RAAF Personnel who died on service 1939-1947

AWM 65 () Citations held by Australian War Memorial

(NAA) National Australian Archives at East Block, Canberra :: Series A705 RAAF WW2 Casualty files. Series A9300 and A9301 RAAF Members WW2 Service records files.

Micro Film No 463 OAFH) Office of RAAF Air Force History.

Veteran Affairs Nominal Roll 1939-1947 RAAF members .

Commonwealth War Graves records.

RAAF WW2 POW Files held at the Australian War Memorial : File Ref Series A54 File 779/3/129, Parts 1 to 30.

W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Volumes 1939 to 1947.

Michael Maton : DFC's for Australians in World War 2

Ian Tavender : DFM Registers for WW2 Volumes 1 and 2.

SECOND WORLD WAR OVERVIEW : ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The Royal Australian Air Force was expanding when war broke out, having 12 Squadrons formed, or in the process of forming. Most were located in Australia, but Australian airmen would end up serving in every theatre of war.

At the outbreak of war, 10 Squadron RAAF was in Britain collecting Sunderland flying boats purchased by the RAAF. The squadron was offered to Britain to serve as part of the Royal Air Force Coastal Command, flying anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic Ocean for the duration of the war. 11 Squadron was stationed at Port Moresby with Catalina flying boats, flying long-range reconnaissance patrols over northern Australia and north of Papua New Guinea. In 1940, 3 Squadron was posted to the Middle East as an army co-operation squadron with the Australian Imperial Force, but became a fighter squadron.

Plans had been made to raise and send more squadrons overseas but the Australian Government then signed up to the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS), under which the Royal Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Air Forces would train aircrews to be loaned to the Royal Air Force. Most would serve in British squadrons, though some would be posted to 'Article XV', or '400-series' squadrons. These squadrons were raised by the RAF but with their nationality officially recognised – for instance 460 Squadron RAAF, to which the famous Lancaster G for George at the Australian War Memorial belonged. Many aircrews who survived their tours of duty returned to Australia to serve in RAAF Squadrons as instructors.

Training of EATS recruits took place in Australia, Canada, Rhodesia and Britain. By war's end almost 40,000 Australians had been sent overseas under this scheme, serving in Europe, the Middle East, Burma and other places. Many men in Australia and overseas died in training accidents. Many who graduated from courses flew with Bomber Command, which had the highest operational loss rate of any British Commonwealth force in the war. The RAAF also sent ground crews to serve in most of the Article XV squadrons (as well as 3 and 10 Squadrons), most serving up to four years service overseas. Hundreds of RAAF members became prisoners of war in Germany and Italy, as well as a smaller number in the Far East.

The majority of RAAF personnel remained in Australia. The massive expansion of the forces required extensive administration, training, supply and maintenance services, and there was also a strong commitment to 'home defence', so many men and most women who volunteered for the RAAF never got a chance to serve overseas. To assist in meeting the demand for manpower within Australia, the RAAF formed the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force in 1941, recruiting women to serve in administrative roles and to perform routine maintenance on aircraft, serving alongside men, in non-operational units (mostly training establishments) in Australia.

In 1940, the RAAF sent three squadrons to Malaya; in 1941 these were joined by an Article XV squadron, 453, raised at Bankstown, New South Wales, along with some EATS graduates posted to British squadrons. They were the first to see action against Japanese forces. About 200 RAAF men, mostly ground staff, were taken prisoner by the Japanese. By the end of 1942, RAAF squadrons also had seen extensive operational service in northern Australia, the Netherlands East Indies and Papua New

2.

Guinea. Other squadrons flew anti-submarine patrols over the shipping lanes around Australia. .

The majority of RAAF personnel who saw active service served in these campaigns against Japan. A few had previously served in Europe or the Middle East. Along with flying squadrons, RAAF members served in various supporting units including headquarters, supply depots, communications flights, medical aerial evacuation units, radar stations and airfield construction squadrons – some of the latter two types of units serving in the Philippines in 1945 with American forces. The RAAF also played a part in the repatriation of prisoners of war at the end of the war. The only RAAF servicewomen to see active service were members of the RAAF Nursing Service.

Source : Veteran's Affairs World War 2 Nominal Roll

Note : There were **11,061** RAAF fatalities in World War 2..
(Australian War Memorial Fact Sheet No 19 refers).*

comprising

5,117 fatalities in RAAF members attached to RAF (primarily) or in some instances other Air Forces (Source : Count of fatalities in AWM 237 (62) Register of Deaths.

and

5,944 fatalities in RAAF Squadrons and support units..

* **Source** AWM 148 Roll of Honour cards, RAAF, Second World War.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400153 Flying Officer MUTIMER, Stanley Charles

Source :

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/28/53 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	W 6543
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 22 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort W6543 took off from RAF Colombo at approx 0610 hours on 13th February 1943. The aircraft struck the roof of a house approx 400 yards from the west end on the runway, and crashed.

Crew:

RAAF 400153 FO Mutimer, S C Captain (Pilot)
RNZAF Flt Lt Leahy, J S (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt J H Sheriston, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R Simons, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RNZAF FO Smith, Le B (Pilot) (Pax – 30 Sqn RAF)

FO Mutimer and Flt Lt Leahy were killed in the crash and FO Smith died shortly after. They are buried in the Colombo (Kanatte) General Cemetery, Sri Lanka. The cemetery is known locally as the Borella cemetery.

Sgt's Sheriston and Simons were seriously injured in the crash.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400555 Sergeant FISHER, Geoffrey Walter

Source:

AWM 237(65) NAA : A705, 163/112/93 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	N 1092
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 39 SQN RAF

Summary:

On 26th December 1941, Beaufort N1092 was reported missing at sea in the vicinity of Koufonisi Island, Crete. At the time the Squadron was based at Maryut, Egypt. In 1945 it was reported that the body of Sgt Fisher had been washed ashore on the island. A search party later visited the island to locate Sgt Fisher's grave but it could not be found. As the grave was reported to be close to the shore, it was thought that the site had been obliterated by storms and high tides.

Crew:

RAF PO Wallington, L G R Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt V Miles, (Observer)
RAF Sgt C W Townsend, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAAF 400555 Sgt G W Fisher, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt Fisher and Flt Sgt Miles have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. The Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village bypassed by the main coast road, approximately 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

PO Wallngton is buried in the Tripoli (Victoria) Naval Cemetery, Lebanese Republic
Commonwealth War Graves do not record any details re.Sgt Townsend.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

407926 Flight Sergeant BURRETT, James Robert

Source :

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/94/286 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 350
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 39 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort AW350 on 22nd September 1942 took off from RAF Luqa, Malta together with Beaufighter escorts to carry out a strike on shipping off Paxos Greece.

During the mission, Beaufighter T5150 whilst following the Deputy Leader of the escort failed to notice he was in a dangerous proximity below Beaufort AW350. The airscrews of the Beaufighter came in contact with the under side of AW350 cutting through the fuselage just forward of the tail unit and probably severing the elevator control cables, causing complete loss of elevator control. AW350 crashed into the sea approx 150 miles east of Malta, and all the crew were killed.

Crew:

RCAF FO Izzard, A F Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 407926 Flt Sgt J R Burrett, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF FO Jones, R (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt W L Doodson, (Wireless Air Gunner)

All the crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial. The Memorial is situated in the Floriana and is easily identified by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the entrance to Valletta.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400490 Flying Officer TWOMEY, Richard John

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA: A705, 163/59/88 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: DD 875
Radio call sign:
Unit: 39 Sqn RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DD 875 of 39 Sqn RAF took off from RAF Station Luqa, Malta, at 6.30pm (local time) on 30 November 1942, for an operational flight laying mines in Bizerta Harbour, Tunis.. DD 875 was in company of two other aircraft from 39 Sqn. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Searches failed to reveal any trace of the missing aircraft or crew.

There was medium opposition from gun positions on the eastern side of the harbour, and it is possible that DD 875 was damaged by enemy action. Bizerta harbour is on the Mediterranean coast of French North Africa approx 40 miles North West of Tunis.

Crew:

RAAF 400490 FO Twomey, R J (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt Holme, L (Observer)
RAF Sgt Games, K (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt Howarth, T (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)

In 1949 it was recorded that the crew had lost their lives at sea and had no known grave. Their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial. The Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily identified by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the entrance to Valletta.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
 RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
 BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

402244 Squadron Leader MARSHALL, Richard Sampson Orlebar DFC

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/27/55 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DD 899
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 39 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DD899 of No 39 Sqn RAF took off from Luqa aerodrome, Malta, at approx 2355 hours on 3rd March 1943. The aircraft was despatched as part of a force on an enemy shipping strike on 2 MV's accompanied by 3DR's north of Cape San Vito. The target was located but not attacked owing to a very heavy smoke screen having been laid. Light Axk-ack was experienced by other aircraft operating against the same target. DD899 failed to return from the mission.

Sgt Evans of the crew was picked up by N.S.L approx 1 mile north east of Gozo and was admitted to No 45 General Hospital suffering from shock, exposure and a fractured left luma, but his injuries were not considered of a serious nature.

In a later completed questionnaire, Sgt Evans gave the position of the crash as 36.20N, 13.50E. He believed that the rest of the crew were imprisoned in the aircraft when it sank, for when he recovered consciousness and climbed into the dinghy, he saw no signs of them in the water, bearing in mind that the only light was coming from pieces of burning wreckage on the sea. He heard no answer to any calls to them.

Crew:

- RAAF 402244 Sqn Ldr Marshall, R S O DFC Captain (Pilot)
- RAAF 404383 FO Paterson, D H (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
- RAF Flt Sgt J Parker, (Wireless Air Gunner)
- RAF Sgt L A Evans, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The names of the three missing crew members are commemorated on the Malta Memorial. The Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily recognised by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the entrance to Valletta.

Citation : The Citation for the award of DFC is as follows :

This officer has taken part in several successful raids on enemy shipping. In June 1942, he participated in an attack on an Italian Naval force. Although his aircraft was severely damaged by ack-ack fire, he flew is back to base. In Sept 1942 he participated in an attack on a convoy of 4 merchant vessels, heavily escorted by 11 destroyers and fighter aircraft. In spite of this formidable opposition, Pilot Officer Marshall released his torpedo from close range. His aircraft was damaged by fire from enemy aircraft but he evaded them and flew safely to base. Throughout, he has displayed great skill and courage. (London Gazette 2/10/1942, page 4273)

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

404383 Flying Officer PATERSON, David Hamilton

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/27/55 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DD 899
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 39 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DD899 of No 39 Sqn RAF took off from Luqa aerodrome, Malta, at approx 2355 hours on 3rd March 1943. The aircraft was despatched as part of a force on an enemy shipping strike consisting of 2 MV's accompanied by 3DR's north of Cape San Vito

The target was located but not attacked owing to a very heavy smoke screen having been laid. Light Axk-ack was experienced by other aircraft operating against the same target. DD899 failed to return from the mission.

Sgt Evans of the crew was picked up by N.S.L approx 1 mile north east of Gozo and was admitted to No 45 General Hospital suffering from shock, exposure and a fractured left luma, but his injuries were not considered of a serious nature.

In a later completed questionnaire, Sgt Evans gave the position of the crash as 36.20N, 13.50E. He believed that the rest of the crew were imprisoned in the aircraft when it sank, for when he recovered consciousness and climbed into the dinghy, he saw no signs of them in the water, bearing in mind that the only light was coming from pieces of burning wreckage on the sea. He heard no answer to any calls to them.

Crew:

RAAF 402244 Sqn Ldr Marshall, R S O DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 404383 FO Paterson, D H (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt J Parker, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt L A Evans, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The names of the three missing crew members are commemorated on the Malta Memorial. The Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily recognised by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the entrance to Valletta.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

411744 Warrant Officer CHALMER, Edward Dawson

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/7/102 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DD 926
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 39 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DD926 took off from RAF Luqa, Malta in company with two other Beauforts, at approx 2317 hours local time on the night of 15th May 1943. These aircraft were despatched on a shipping search off the west coast of Italy.

DD926 signalled base at approx 0331 hours on 16th May when on a bearing of 060/070 degrees Malta. Other Beauforts engaged on the same task reported the presence of twin engine night fighters in the target area. DD926 failed to return to base.

Aerial reconnaissance carried out the following day found a large patch of oil off the south coast of Sicily in a position 36.58N 16.02E.

Crew:

RAAF 411744 WO E D Chalmer, Captain (Pilot)
RCAF WO Class 11 F J Payne, (Observer)
RAF Sgt J E Taylor, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt W G Farrell, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The missing crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial. The Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily identified by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stands outside the entrance to Valletta.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400204 Flying Officer LAWSON, Harry Horwood

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A9300, Barcode Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File Page 45

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	W 6529
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 42 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort W6529 flown by FO Lawson (Pilot) flew into a hill at Pusk, Fifeshire, Scotland on 29th November 1941. FO Lawson lost his life and he is buried in the Leuchars Cemetery, Fifeshire, Scotland.

Archives does not hold a RAAF Casualty file, so that other crew details are not available from existing records.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

402516 Pilot Officer DEVENISH-MEARES, Russell

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/44/118 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 9868
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 42 SQN RAF

Summary:

PO Devenish-Meares was the pilot of Beaufort L9868 detailed to take part in a strike on Kristiansund, Norway on the morning of the 9th December 1941. The aircraft took off from RAF Leuchars, Scotland, at 0530 hours and should have returned to base at 10.30 hours. No W/T message was received and the aircraft failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 402516 PO Devenish-Meares, R Captain (Pilot)

RAF Sgt J Nash, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)

RAF Sgt W A Nation, (Wireless Air Gunner)

RAF Sgt A King, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The missing crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

407899 Sergeant JONES, Jack Lundie

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/129/188 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File Pages 49 and 51

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 366
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 42 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort AW 366 was engaged on 11th May 1942, in a non-operational training day formation flight light torpedo attacks, when it collided with AW310.. AW366 crashed into the Firth of Forth, Scotland. Two of the crew of AW366 were killed and 2 are missing.

Crew:

RAF Sgt B F J Page, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 407899 Sgt J L Jones, (Observer)
RAF Sgt S Counsell, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D McDonald,(Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt's Page and Jones are buried in the Leuchars Cemetery, Fifeshire, Scotland.
Sgt's Counsell and MsDonald have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

402148 Flying Officer ARCHER, Rodney Bainbridge DFC

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 1631/22/132 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File Page

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 383
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 42 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort AW383 on 17th May 1942, took part in a raid against the German battleship Prinz Eugen, which had been located off Lista, Norway AW383 was shot down by flak

Crew:

RAAF 402148 FO Archer, R B DFC Captain (Pilot)
RNZAF Flt Sgt D N Keeling, (Observer)
RAF Sgt B Cain, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt G Jefferies, (Wireless Air Gunner)

In 1949 a Missing Research and Enquiry Service report stated that Sgt Cain's body was washed ashore on the coast of Norway. Commonwealth War Graves record that he is buried in the Sola Churchyard. Sola is situated on the south west coast of Norway, south of Stavanger and just north of Sandes.

No trace of the other three crew or the aircraft was found, and it was assumed that they had lost their lives at sea. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

Citation : The Citation for the award of DFC Is as follows :

On the afternoon of 12th February 1942, a force of Beaufort and Hudson aircraft carried out an attack on an enemy naval force, including Scharnhorst and Gneisnau, off the Dutch coast. In the face of harassing fire from screening destroyers, the attack was pressed home with the utmost determination from very close range. Although it had not been possible to assess the damage inflicted, owing to extremely poor visibility, it is believed several hits were obtained. The operation which demanded a high degree of skill and courage reflects the greatest credit on the (following) officers and airmen who participated. (London Gazette 24/3/1942 page 1328 – Joint Citation to 5 RAF and 3 RCAF officers and airmen)

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

403733 Flying Officer GARRIOCK, Walter

Source:

NAA: A705, 163/33/75 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: DE 110
Radio call sign:
Unit: 47 Sqn RAF.

Summary:

On 26 October 1942 Beaufort DE 110 piloted by PO Garriock, was in a formation of 8 Beauforts of 47 Sqn RAF, which left Gianacelis to strike against an enemy convoy of 2 motor vessels, a tanker and four destroyers nearing Tobruk. Bisleys and Beaufighters escorted the above formation. The target convoy was seen at 3220N 2342E.

The Beauforts carried out a torpedo attack and the Bisleys a low level bombing attack on the convoy. Ten miles on the return journey, DE 110 (PO Garriock), collided with a Bisley and crashed into the sea. No survivors were observed, and all crew members were lost at sea.

Crew:

RAAF 403733 PO Garriock, W (Pilot)
RNZAF FO Simpson, R W (Observer)
RAAF 407166 Sgt Davis, L G (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)
RAAF 404689 Sgt Hamilton, R J (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

The crew of four have no known grave, and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. The Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

407166 Sergeant DAVIS, Lance George

Source:

NAA: A705, 163/33/75 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: DE 110
Radio call sign:
Unit: 47 Sqn RAF.

Summary:

On 26 October 1942 Beaufort DE 110 piloted by PO Garriock, was in a formation of 8 Beauforts of 47 Sqn RAF, which left Gianacelis to strike against an enemy convoy of 2 motor vessels, a tanker and four destroyers nearing Tobruk. Bisleys and Beaufighters escorted the above formation. The target convoy was seen at 3220N 2342E.

The Beauforts carried out a torpedo attack and the Bisleys a low level bombing attack on the convoy. Ten miles on the return journey, DE 110 (PO Garriock), collided with a Bisley and crashed into the sea. No survivors were observed, and all crew members were lost at sea.

Crew:

RAAF 403733 PO Garriock, W (Pilot)
RNZAF FO Simpson, R W (Observer)
RAAF 407166 Sgt Davis, L G (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)
RAAF 404689 Sgt Hamilton, R J (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

The crew of four have no known grave, and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. The Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

404689 Sergeant HAMILTON, Roy James

Source:

NAA: A705, 163/33/75 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: DE 110
Radio call sign:
Unit: 47 Sqn RAF.

Summary:

On 26 October 1942 Beaufort DE 110 piloted by PO Garriock, was in a formation of 8 Beauforts of 47 Sqn RAF, which left Gianacelis to strike against an enemy convoy of 2 motor vessels, a tanker and four destroyers nearing Tobruk. Bisleys and Beaufighters escorted the above formation. The target convoy was seen at 3220N 2342E.

The Beauforts carried out a torpedo attack and the Bisleys a low level bombing attack on the convoy. Ten miles on the return journey, DE 110 (PO Garriock), collided with a Bisley and crashed into the sea. No survivors were observed, and all crew members were lost at sea.

Crew:

RAAF 403733 PO Garriock, W (Pilot)
RNZAF FO Simpson, R W (Observer)
RAAF 407166 Sgt Davis, L G (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)
RAAF 404689 Sgt Hamilton, R J (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

The crew of four have no known grave, and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. The Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

407929 Flight Sergeant GITSHAM, Stewart Burton

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/117/192. Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: DE 115
Radio call sign:
Unit: 47 Sqn RAF

Summary:

On 26 October 1942 Beaufort DE 115 piloted by FO Davidson, was in a formation of 8 Beauforts of 47 Sqn RAF, which left Gianaclis to strike against an enemy convoy of 2 motor vessels, a tanker and four destroyers nearing Tobruk. Bisleys and Beaufighters escorted the above formation. The target convoy was seen at 32.20N 23.42E.

The Beauforts carried out a torpedo attack and the Bisleys a low level bombing attack on the convoy. After carrying out the torpedo attack on a merchant vessel, Beaufort DE 115 is believed to have crashed beside it. DE 115 did not return to base.

In a report by PO Jones, the only survivor of DE115, he stated “the aircraft sank immediately after hitting the sea, breaking up at the rear as it did so I surfaced a few minutes later, and Sgt Pugh surfaced just after him. Sgt Pugh died before being picked up”.

Crew:

RCAF FO Davidson, H.J. Pilot.
RAAF 407929 Flt Sgt S.B.Gitsham, Observer.
RAF PO Jones, T.H., Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.
RAF Sgt S.R.M.Pugh, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.

Sgt Pugh is buried in the Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya.

Both FO Davidson and Flt Sgt Gitsham have no known graves and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial. Egypt. The Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

401183 Sergeant AUGUSTINUS, Alfred Leslie

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/89/39 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DE 118
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 47 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DE118 on 18th November 1942 struck high ground 50 miles south of Sidi Heneish, and the torpedo on board exploded. Two of the five on board the aircraft were killed.

An investigation into the accident expressed the opinion that “the pilot was intently studying a map while the aircraft was losing height preparatory to a low flying torpedo practice, when the aircraft hit the ground.”

After the aircraft came to rest the three who survived the crash managed to get out of the burning aircraft with the ammunition exploding The torpedo exploded shortly after and the two in the aircraft were killed.

Crew:

RAF Wg Cdr Sprague, R A Captain (Pilot) Killed
RAAF 401183 Sgt A L Augustinus, (Observer) Killed
RAF FO Collier, C A H, (Wireless Air Gunner) Uninjured
RCAF Sgt J C M Lake, (Wireless Air Gunner) Uninjured
RAF LAC F D Isbell (PAX) Slightly injured

The two crew members killed are buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road. approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

404171 Sergeant COWAN, Percy Noel

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/98/296 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	W 6471
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 86 SQN RAF

Summary:

On the night of 18th August 1941, Sgt Cowan in Beaufort W6471 was detailed to carry out night circuits and landings at the Donna Nook Landing Ground, Lincolnshire, UK. At about 2300 hours just after taking off, the aircraft flew into the ground just beyond the aircraft boundary.

Sgt Cowan was seriously injured and was admitted to Louth County hospital where he died on 19th August 1941. The Observer (Sgt Lowing) in the aircraft suffered concussion and was admitted to the North Coates sick quarters at Marshchapel. Sgt Lowing was later to lose his life on operations on 24th July 1942.

Crew:

RAAF 404171 Sgt P N Cowan, Captain (Pilot)

RAAF 402449 Sgt W A Lowing, (Observer)

Sgt Cowan is buried in the North Coates (St Nicholas) Churchyard, Lincolnshire.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

402149 Sergeant BELL, Merton John

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/91/131 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	X 8925
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 86 SQN RAF

Summary:

At 1430 hours on 30th October 1941, Sgt Bell whilst practising low flying over the sea and torpedo attack tactics in Beaufort X8925, misjudged his height on a turn and the wing struck the water. Later the aircraft cart wheeled into the sea, and all on board were killed. The accident took place while low flying off Ayr, Scotland.

Crew:

RAAF 402149 Sgt M J Bell, (Pilot)
RAF Sgt A G Thompson, (Observer)
RAF Sgt L G Staniland, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF AC I Tankel,
RAF AC1 K R E Dutton,

Sgt Thompson is buried in the Liverpool (Kirkdale) Cemetery, Lancashire, UK.
The other four crew on board have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400161 Flying Officer THORNTON, William Austin

Source :

NAA : A705, 163/58/65 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	W 6474
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	86 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort W6474 of 86 Sqn RAF in transit from RAF Station Portreath to the Middle East, was reported missing on 18 March 1942.

Crew:

RAAF 400161 FO Thornton, W A, Captain (Pilot)
RCAF FO Brinkworth E P (Navigator/Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt Brigstocke A L, (Wireless/Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt Bohling C N B, (Wireless/Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries and investigations, it was recorded in 1948 that the crew had lost their lives at sea. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

404173 Flight Sergeant DALY, Maurice Joseph

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A9301 Bar code 5522511 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File, Page 50

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 345
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD86 SQN RAF

Summary:

On 28th May 1942, AW345 flown by Flt Sgt Daly, hit an unlit radio mast and crashed at Thrumster, Caithness, Scotland. Flt Sgt Daly was killed in the crash.

Crew:

RAAF 404173 Flt Sgt M J Daly, (Pilot)

No other crew details are listed on available records held at Archives.

Flt Sgt Daly is buried in the Wick Cemetery, Caithness-shire, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

402449 Pilot Officer LOWING, William Alan

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/139/61 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 355
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 86 SQN RAF

Summary:

Beaufort AW355 was detailed as one of three Beauforts forming the first sub flight of 6 Beauforts to attack an enemy convoy near Cephalonia, Greece on the morning of 24th July 1942. About 2 miles from the convoy anti-aircraft fire was encountered. One Beaufort was seen to blow up in mid air and another was thought to have crashed in the sea near the convoy.

A third Beaufort which was hit in the port engine, set course away from the convoy but with the other engine stopping, the aircraft force landed in the sea 2 to 3 miles from the convoy. 1 man was seen in a dinghy and three others in the water.

AW355 failed to return from the above mission, but it could not be established which of the above three aircraft was AW355.

Crew:

RAF Sqn Ldr Hyde, J R DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt R C West, (Pilot)
RAAF 402449 PO Lowing, W A (Observer)
RAF Sgt Sarene, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sqn Ldr Hyde, PO Lowing and Sgt West are buried in the Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece, which is located in south east Athens.

As Commonwealth War Graves do not list Sgt Sarene in their records, it is possible that he survived the crash.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

215 Flight Lieutenant OAKLEY, Richard Arthur

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/50/19 Commonwealth war Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File, Page 37

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 9835
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD 217 SQN RAF

Summary:

On 1st February 1941, L9835 failed to return from a bombing raid on Brest, France. It was believed that the aircraft crashed into the sea between Ushant and the UK after a daylight bombing raid. A message had been received from the aircraft at 1616 hours saying that the port engine had failed and the aircraft was losing height. The aircraft failed to return to base.

Crew:

RAAF 215 Flt Lt Oakley, R A Captain (Pilot)

No other details are available re other crew members on board.

Flt Lt Oakley is buried in the Phen-les-Guines Communal Cemetery, Locality Pas-de-Calais, France. Pas-de-Calais is a village 10kms SSW of Calais and about 3kms east of the main Calais to Boulogne road.

RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING ON ATTACHMENT IN ROYAL AIR FORCE
SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS IN WORLD WAR 2 AND MISSING WITH
NO KNOWN GRAVE.

400161 Flying Officer THORNTON, William Austin

Source:

NAA: A705, 163/58/65

Aircraft Type: Beaufort
Serial number: W 6474
Radio call sign:
Unit: 86 Sqn RAF

Summary:

Beaufort W 6474 of 86 Sqn RAF in transit from RAF Station Portreath to the Middle East, was reported missing on 18 March 1942.

Crew:

RAAF 400161 FO Thornton, W A, Captain (Pilot)
RCAF FO Brinkworth E P (Navigator/Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt Brigstocke A L (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt Bohling C N B (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries and investigations, it was recorded in 1948 that the crew had lost their lives at sea. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

417031 Flying Officer WILSON, Francis Montague

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/43/552 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	ML 444
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	ATTD NO 1 OADU RAF

Summary:

Beaufort ML444 on a delivery flight from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, to Radat, Sale, North Africa, on 7th March 1944, but it failed to reach its destination,.

Crew:

RCAF Flt Sgt O C Markle, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 417031 FO Wilson, F M (Navigator BombAimer)
RAF Sgt P C Brown, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt E R Groves, (Wireless Air Gunner)

All the crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

400149 Flying Officer LITTLE, Kenneth Treloar

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA :A705, 163/43/37 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File Page 42

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	N 1160
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort N1160 flown by FO Little (Pilot) when carrying out a practice flight on 30th August 1941, crashed into the sea about half a mile off Saunton Sands, North Devon, England. All on board were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 400149 FO Little, K T Captain (Pilot)
Other details of the crew on board are not recorded in the RAAF Casualty file.

FO Little is buried in the Heanton Punchardon (St Augustine) Churchyard, Devon, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

404502 Pilot Officer HOPKINS, Reginald William

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/36/120 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File, Page 40.

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	N 1044
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort N1044 flown by PO Hopkins, crashed into high ground when descending through cloud at Exford, Devon, at 2207 hours at night on 1st December 1941. Three of the crew were killed and one dangerously injured.

Crew:

RAAF 404502 PO Hopkins, R W Captain (Pilot)

RAF PO Masters, R (Observer)

RAF Sgt G Boyle, (Wireless Air Gunner)

RAF Sgt R A Smart, (Wireless AirGunner)

PO Holpkins is buried in the Barnstaple Cemetery, Devon, UK

PO Masters is buried in the Streatham Park Jewish Cemetery, Surrey, UK.

Sgt Boyle is buried in the Ashton-Under-Lyne (Hurst) Cemetery, Lancashire, UK

Sgt Smart who was dangerously injured in the crash, died of his injuries on 3rd December 1941. He is buried in the Malden (St John the Baptist) Churchyard, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

405021 Sergeant McLENNAN, Clarence Colville

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/141/457 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File, Page 38

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 9935
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort L9935 crashed on 7th February 1942, one mile east of Chivenor, during a night take off at 2023 hours from Chivenor, North Devon, UK All the crew were killed. The aircraft was detailed to carry out a night navigation patrol exercise over the sea.

Crew:

RAF Sgt V Meldrum, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 405021 Sgt C C McLennan, (Observer)
RAF Sgt N Battram, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt G A Blackwood, (Wireless Air Gunner)

A later Court of Inquiry found that the pilot lost flying control soon after take off causing the aircraft to lose altitude and strike high ground.

Sgt Meldrum is buried in the Sunderland (Ryhope Road) Cemetery, Durham, UK
Sgt's McLennan and Blackwood are buried in the Heanton Punchardon (St Augustine) Churchyard, Devon, UK.
Sgt Battram is buried in the Mountain Ash (Maesyrrarian) Cemetery, Glamorganshire, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

405142 Pilot Officer WHITE, Reginald Allan

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/63/131 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 4445
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort L4445 was detailed on 1st March 1942 to carry out a low level bombing training exercise. The aircraft took off at 1005 hours and during the exercise the aircraft struck the water and crashed.

A later Court of Inquiry found that the primary cause of the crash was the aircraft hitting the water of the River Taw, causing the port propeller to come off. A secondary cause was the stalling of the port wing during an attempt to carry out a forced landing due to .
(a) the pilot attempted to reach the aerodrome with insufficient power or height to do so and
(b) the use of flaps in the final stages of the approach.

Two of the crew were killed and Sgt Scott slightly injured.

Crew:

RCAF PO Brimacombe, R S Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 405142 PO White, R A (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RNZAF Sgt P Scott, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Both PO Brimacombe and PO White are buried in the Heanton Punchardon (St Augustine) Churchyard, Devon, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

408525 Flying Officer ROY, Eugene Victor

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 163/55/209 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 4480
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort L4480 was detailed on 20th August 1942 to carry out a non operation night training exercise. The aircraft crashed at Greenhead Farm, near Turnberry, Ayrshire, Scotland. The crash occurred soon after take off by night 0025 hours.. A goose neck flare path was in operation. All the crew were killed.

In a Unit report on the accident it stated “from examination of the wreckage the aircraft appears to have hit the ground at great speed and whilst turning to port. The rudder bias control is just off central and the fore and aft control is normal. The pilot must have had height, as the crash is on the other side of hills about 400 feet from the aerodrome.”

Crew:

RAAF 408525 PO Roy, E V Captain (Pilot)
RAF PO Battrick, D H (Observer)
RCAF Flt Sgt D G Taylor, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RCAF Flt Sgt W M Vacheresse, (Wireless Air Gunner)

PO Roy, and Flt Sgt's Taylor and Vacheresse are buried in the Danure Cemetery, Ayrshire, UK.

PO Battrick is buried in the Wyck Regis New Burial Ground, Dorset, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

406493 Flight Sergeant SHERWOOD, Leslie Roy

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA :A705, 163/161/311 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DD 881
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DD881 took off from RAF Turnberry at 1904 hours on a clear night on 27th October 1942 on Nav exercise No 1 but failed to return from the exercise. Base – Ayr – Mull of Kintyre – Rathlin East – Maidens – Mull of Galloway – Killantringan – Corsewell.

A later Court of Inquiry found the cause of the accident in their opinion “The aircraft ran out of petrol by flying to its endurance through being lost and eventually presumably crashed into the Irish Sea at approx 2359 hours on 27/10/42. The original error was in navigation by the navigator which caused the aircraft to overshoot the Mull of Galloway and encounter the only patch of bad weather in the vicinity. Both aircraft and crew were missing.

Crew:

RAAF 406493 Flt Sgt L R Sherwood, Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt R A Ellis, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt G W Newman, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt G Hancock, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The missing crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

9452 Sergeant STEVENS, Thomas Charles

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : 705, 166/38/81 Commonwealth War Graves records
Roger Hayward : The Beaufort File, Page 48.

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	AW 277
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort AW277 was detailed on 29th March 1943 to carry out a non operational night navigation exercise. The aircraft was returning from the exercise, and had several fixes which placed the aircraft on track, the last fix being less than 20 miles from the aerodrome. The aircraft signalled X257 approx 3 minutes before it flew into electric cables at 4am on 29th March, at Colin Mountain, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. All the crew were killed in the crash.

Crew:

RAF Sgt W A McKinley, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 9452 Sgt T C Stevens, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt E F H Stephens, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt P H Ryder, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt McKinley is buried in the Strabane Cemetery, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland UK
Sgt Stevens is buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK
Sgt Stephens is buried in the Wymering (St Peter and St Paul) Churchyard, Hertfordshire, UK
Sgt Ryder is buried in the Abbots Langley (St Lawrence) Churchyard, Hertfordshire, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

413982 Flight Sergeant GIBSON, Donald Murray

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/15/50 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	EL 131
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	No 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort EL131 was detailed on 15th May 1943 to carry out a daytime non-operational training exercise No 2. The aircraft crashed at 0920 hours 1 mile north of Shields Corner, The Cheegh, Castle Dawson, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, UK. All five on board were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 413982 Flt Sgt D M Gibson, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 411702 Flt Sgt C L Harris, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RNZAF Sgt K T Devery, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RNZAF Sgt A R Davis, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF AC2 D H O'Brien, (Wireless Operator)

Flt Sgt's Gibson and Harris and Sgt Davis are buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK.

Sgt Devery is buried in the Belfast (Milltown) Roman Catholic Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK.

AC2 O'Brien is buried in the Bexley Heath Cemetery, Kent, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

411702 Flight Sergeant HARRIS, Charles Loxley

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/15/50 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	EL 131
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	No 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort EL131 was detailed on 15th May 1943 to carry out a daytime non-operational training exercise No 2. The aircraft crashed at 0920 hours 1 mile north of Shields Corner, The Cheegh, Castle Dawson, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, UK. All five on board were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 413982 Flt Sgt D M Gibson, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 411702 Flt Sgt C L Harris, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RNZAF Sgt K T Devery, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RNZAF Sgt A R Davis, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF AC2 D H O'Brien, (Wireless Operator)

Flt Sgt's Gibson and Harris and Sgt Davis are buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK.

Sgt Devery is buried in the Belfast (Milltown) Roman Catholic Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK.

AC2 O'Brien is buried in the Bexley Heath Cemetery, Kent, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

416768 Sergant KIRBY, William Wilson

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : 705, 166/22/65 Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DX 134
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 1 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DX134 was detailed on 15th May 1943 to carry out a non operational training flight – map reading and air-sea rescue exercise. At 1800 hours the aircraft crashed at Church Island, near Bellaghy, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and all the crew were killed.

In a unit report on the accident it stated “ it seems fairly apparent that the pilot was making a forced landing on open ground, but his approach took him over a church. It seems that to avoid hitting the church spire, he stalled the aircraft at approx 100 feet and crashed in a very steep angle just beyond the church building.” It also stated the “port engine was suspect. The pilot had trimmed the aircraft to fly on starboard engine. Traces of white metal in the oil. Engine being inspected.”

Crew:

RCAF Sgt R K Holmes, Captain (Pilot) (an American citizen)
RAAF 416768 Sgt W W Kirby, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt G Taylor, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J R Parkes, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt Holmes is buried in the Belfast (Milltown) Roman Catholic Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK

Sgt Kirby is buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK.

Sgt Taylor is buried in the Sheffield (Intake Village) Cemetery, Yorkshire, UK.

Sgt Parkes is buried in the Dudley Borough Cemetery, Worcestershire, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

416799 Sergeant SPARROW, Norman Thomas

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/38/145 Commonwealth war Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DW 995
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DW995 was detailed to carry out a night non-operational navigation training exercise. The aircraft took off at 2206 hours on 22nd May 1943, and crashed into the sea off Port Rush, Northern Ireland, at 0115 hours on 23rd May 1943 .All the crew lost their lives.

Crew:

RCAF FO Post W I Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 416799 Sgt N T Sparrow (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RNZAF Flt Sgt C H Brumby, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J Booth, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The missing crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

417302 Flight Sergeant POTTER, Alan Gilbert

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA :A705, 166/33/56 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	JM 451
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 5 O T U RAF

Summary:

Beaufort JM451 was detailed on 23rd July 1943 to carry out a non operational daytime map reading, air to air firing, photography and QCM training exercise. The aircraft crashed at 1035 hours 5 miles west of Swatragh, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and all the crew were killed.

Crew:

RCAF FO Aspinall, M J W Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 417302 Flt Sgt A G Potter, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt R D Eaglen, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt E C Buttle, (Wireless Air Gunner)

FO Aspinall, Flt Sgt Potter and Sgt Eaglen are buried in the Eglantine Church of Ireland Cemetery, County Down, Northern Ireland, UK.

Sgt Buttle is buried in the Southampton (South Stoneham) Cemetery, Hampshire, UK

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

411203 Flight Sergeant TAMBLYN, Tom Skinner

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/39/16, 166/26/24. Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 9825
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 1 TORPEDO TRAINING UNIT RAF

Summary:

Beaufort L9825 was detailed on 19th January 1943 to carry out an authorised low flying exercise, During the exercise the aircraft flew into the sea on the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, 1.5 miles west of Girvan at 1145 hours on 19th January. All the crew were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 411203 Flt Sgt T S Tamblyn, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 412321 Sgt J E McGrath, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt R A W Quin (Wireless Air Gunner)

Flt Sg Tamblyn and Sgt McGrath are buried in the Danure Cemetery, Ayrshire, Scotland, UK

Sgt Quin is buried in the Ilford Barkingside Cemetery, Essex, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

412231 Sergeant McGRATH, Joseph Ernest

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/39/16, 166/26/24. Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	L 9825
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 1 TORPEDO TRAINING UNIT RAF

Summary:

Beaufort L9825 was detailed on 19th January 1943 to carry out an authorised low flying exercise, During the exercise the aircraft flew into the sea on the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, 1.5 miles west of Girvan at 1145 hours on 19th January. All the crew were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 411203 Flt Sgt T S Tamblyn, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 412321 Sgt J E McGrath, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt R A W Quin (Wireless Air Gunner)

Flt Sg Tamblyn and Sgt McGrath are buried in the Danure Cemetery, Ayrshire, Scotland, UK

Sgt Quin is buried in the Ilford Barkingside Cemetery, Essex, UK.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

421491 Sergeant McDONALD, Donald Sylvester

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/26/152 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	DW 923
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 1 TORPEDO TRAINING UNIT RAF

Summary:

Beaufort DW923 was detailed on 14th June 1943 to carry out non operational day training exercise. During the exercise the aircraft crashed at 1118 hours in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland 1.5 miles from the Turnberry Light, and all the crew were killed.

The accident occurred in the morning during attacks on a target ship. The aircraft was flying approx north so that the sun was roughly behind it giving no glare off the water. The aircraft was pulling up and began to turn to starboard after attacking the ship. The plume of black smoke observed from the port engine was probably due to violent opening of the throttle or throttles. Recovery from any unusual condition would be difficult at the low height at which the aircraft was flying.

It was concluded that the pilot, being comparatively inexperienced in both low flying over the sea and the type, in some way pulled the aircraft up to or near the stalling condition during the turn; realising this he opened both throttles violently, at the same time putting the nose down., Being at such a low altitude the aircraft hit the sea..

Crew:

RAF Sgt H F Hunter, Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 421491 Sgt D S McDonald, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt T E Doherty, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RNZAF Sgt D K H McDonald, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt Hunter and Sgt McDonald (RAAF) are buried in the Dunure Cemetery, Ayrshire, Scotland UK

Sgt Doherty and Flt Sgt McDonald (RNZAF) have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING IN RAF
BEAUFORT SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

417204 Flight Sergeant KINGSMILL, John Allen

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/22/104 Commonwealth War Graves records

Aircraft Type:	Beaufort
Serial number:	JM 557
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	NO 2 TORPEDO TRAINING UNIT RAF

Summary:

Beaufort JM557 was detailed on 23rd August 1943 to carry out a low flying exercise over the sea. During the exercise the aircraft experienced starboard engine failure and the aircraft crashed into the Firth of Clyde about one mile off shore near Culzean Castle, about 12 miles south of Ayr, Scotland. All the crew were killed.

Crew:

RAF FO Keevil, J R Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 417204 Flt Sgt J A Kingsmill, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt G Duncan, (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D A Vie-Spiers, (Wireless Air Gunner)

FO Keevil, Flt Sgt Kingsmill and Sgt Duncan have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.
Commonwealth War Graves does not record the name of Sgt Vie-Spiers.