

Group Captain (Ret) A.G.H Wearne, D.S.O..D.F.C.

Attie Wearne joined the RAAF on the 16 January 1939 before graduating and was commissioned as a pilot officer in October of that year. In December, after completing a sea plane conversion course, he was posted to 10 Sqdn (Sunderlands) Then serving at Mt. Ejatten (Plymouth) in the UK. For the next 2 years he served first as 2nd Pilot then as a Captain on Sunderlands. In that time he amassed a total of 1700 hours flying time. During the period as 2nd pilot his Aircraft was attacked by 2 JU 88's both of which were shot down.

From July 42 until September Wearne was committed to night bombing of enemy targets in the SW Pacific theatre. During this period in a solo raid he made a very successful attack on the Rabaul Airfield of Vanukanau from low level. The attack was made along the length of the single runway and enemy aircraft installations were destroyed. Subsequently Japanese Intelligence confirmed that 12 A/C were destroyed and a further 3 damaged. This tour with 11 squadron was cut short on the 12th September when Wearne lost his lower right leg in a shark attack off Trinity Beach, Cairns. After almost a year in hospital, recuperating and in training roles he returned to flying and was appointed commanding officer of 20 sqdn which was then almost solely committed to mine laying at ports and seaways in the NEI and ultimately the Phillipines and China coast. This tour ended on 19th march 1945 with a total of 1790 flying hours on Catelinas .

For his tours with 10 and 11 Sqdns Wearne was awarded the D.F.C. and later after his tour with 20 Sqdn he received the D.S.O.

Squadron Leader (Ret) Lin Hurt D.F.C.

Lin Hurt reported to Essendon in early 1940 for EFTS on Tiger Moths before moving to Laverton and Hawker Demons. A year after arrival, Lin completed a second pilot's course on Catalinas at Rathmines with a tour of operations as a second pilot with 20 Squadron, before a captain's course at Rathmines and then to 43 Squadron at Karumba. 43 Squadron then moved to Darwin where Lin was appointed acting CO upon Charles Thompson's departure.

It was not long after this Hurt and the rest of his crew volunteered for a dangerous torpedo attack on Japanese shipping in Bima Harbour on Soembaya Island. It was on his second run while flying through thick enemy flak that the Catalina received a direct hit. After a lengthy recuperation period. Hurt returned to a posting to AFHQ, Melbourne until War's end.

