

R.A.F. Lincolns on loan

<i>BI</i>	RA638	19.10.53	airframe approved for disposal.
<i>BI</i>	RA640	10.6.57	final w/o action has been taken. Auth. P/S Edinburgh.
<i>BI</i>	RA644	23.5.57	listed on Edin./6/57 for disposal as scrap metal with engines Merlin Mk 86 195829 196473 196573 197171
		12.9.57	disposal in progress.
<i>BI</i>	RA648	5.6.47	issued to Air Min U.K.
<i>BI</i>	RE258	22.7.53	conversion to components has been completed
<i>BI</i>	RE259	22.7.53	conversion to components has been completed
<i>BI</i>	RE339	23.5.57	listed on Edin./6/57 for disposal as scrap metal with Python Mk I Nos 123, 145 and Merlin Mk 86 Nos 196455, 197943 engines installed.
		12.8.57	conversion in progress.
<i>BI</i>	RE418	22.7.53	conversion to components has been completed.
<i>BI</i>	RF403	8.11.57	collected by purchaser complete with installed engines.
<i>BI</i>	RF423	22.11.55	residue after conversion to components to be transferred to DCA on a free issue basis.

A recent issue of Air Britain's "Aeromilitaria" had a story on the Avro Lincoln in RAF service, and included the following references to Lincolns used in Australia:

RA638 BBU to LRWE MoS aircraft  
 RA644 BBU to LRWE MoS aircraft  
 RE259 BBU to LRWE SoC 2.2.53  
 RE258 Rolls Royce to WRE to Avro to LRWE. SoC 2.2.53  
 RE339 Avro to ARDU Australia. Python testbed, mounted in outer engine positions, later replaced by Bristol Theseus 21s. SoC 3.10.56.  
 RF403 deHavillands to ARDU Australia. SoC 3.10.56.

Unfortunately the story gives no explanation of the abbreviation "BBU".

Someone who should be able to give you some useful background info on the operations of 34 Sqn on the supply runs from Mallala to Woomera in the early 1950s is:

John O'Leary  
 25 Walsh Avenue  
 St. Marys, SA.

He is a friend of David Vincents, and worked with 34 Sqn during that period, flying in their C-47s, Bristol Freighters and the Viking. He has some good photographs, which Dave is copying for me at the moment. I suggest that you ask Dave Vincent to introduce you to John, and have a good yarn with him.

Did you lay your hands on a copy of the May 1982 "Air Pictorial"? We talked about it on the phone when you were across here last, because it had a story on "Operation Grapple" on the Pacific H-Bomb tests. However an interesting reference to Maralinga for you in this story was:

Valiant WZ366 made the first A-Bomb drop at Maralinga during Operation Buffalo, pilot was Sqn Ldr E.J.G. Flavel. October 1956.

Another magazine I recommend to you at the moment is the June 82 issue of the American magazine "Wings". It has a colour wartime shot of a Liberator on the front cover and is on the newstands around Perth at the present time. It features a fascinating story on captured Japanese aircraft in WW2 being evaluated by US, and has some amazing pictures of Jap aircraft held by USAAF at Eagle Farm Airport, Brisbane. I've sent a copy up to Stan in Derby, who will wet himself when he sees the pictures of all the Jap fighters stored in a hangar in Brisbane!

By the way, Stan has been busy at Broome harbour again recently, and after working on another Dornier wreck has recovered many items, the prize being a .32 caliber automatic pistol, still loaded! He tells me that a new Broome museum group is seriously planning to recover one of the Dorniers from the harbour early next year.

I came across some references to Cocos recently that might interest you:

99 Sqn RAF moved to Cocos from Dhubalin in 1945, and by 11.45 their Liberators KN751, KN759 & KH161 were among Liberators based at Cocos.