

RK-A	<p>A24-88 A24-88 1714 Bu.48352 built 2/11/43, taken on by RAAF 26/03/44. 3 OTU 25/4/44. 42 Sqn 8/8/44, RK-A. 11 Sqn 8/8/45. Sold to Kingsford-Smith 5/1/48. Hull used as a Murray River house boat. Currently under restoration and on display at the Moorabin Air Museum VIC. Link to Moorabin Air Museum's Catalina Page Images of A24-88.</p> <p>& or</p> <p>A24-373 61155 Bu.44249/JX631 42 Sqn 30/7/45. 43 Sqn 30/11/45. Sold to Airmotive 18/5/53.</p>	<p>The Museum's Catalina was delivered to the RAAF in March 1944, and served with 42 Squadron as "RK-A" from August 1944 through to July 1945 in the South East Pacific operations as a Black Cat on sea mining missions. It's most famous mission was to take part in the longest Black Cat mining mission of the War - to mine Manila Harbour in December 1944 to bottle up the Japanese Fleet ahead of the landings in the Philippines by General McArthur.</p> <p>This was a secret mission involving RAAF aircraft from 11, 42 and 43 Squadrons and consisted of A24-88 departing Melville Bay in the Northern Territory on a round trip of nearly 9000 miles, and 15 hours flying duration The mission consisted of 4000 lbs of mines, severely limiting the fuel load and duration of flight.</p> <p>A24-88 transferred to 11 Squadron on 1 August 1945 and remained with that squadron to the end of the war and was allocated to 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot at Lake Boga, Victoria on 10 January 1946 for storage and disposal.</p> <p>It was sold on 5 January 1948 to Kingsford Smith Air Services who stripped it for spares to maintain other former RAAF Catalinas purchased and flown from Lake Boga. The hulk of A24-88 was sold for scrap but instead was stripped of its engines, wings, and tail, and converted to a house boat on the Murray River where it served for over 30 years in the Echuca area before being acquired by the Museum.</p> <p>At least six former RAAF flying boats converted into houseboats and operated on the Murray River post war, including a former PBY-4 which was converted to a paddle boat, but fortunately A24-88 was one of the few not to suffer radical modification of its superstructure.</p> <p>The Museum is fundraising to restore the aircraft to externally complete Flying Boat configuration, with parts being recovered from all over Australia, and overseas, it is one of only four original wartime RAAF Catalina's surviving in Australia, and the only one with documented Black Cat operational history.</p> <p>It is the last surviving RAAF Black Cat, the sole surviving RAAF PBY-5A model of 46 delivered, and the only survivor of the 29 locally modified PBY-5A (M) aircraft converted from Amphibian to Flying Boat. The Museum's Catalina was delivered to the RAAF in March 1944, and served with 42 Squadron as "RK-A" from August 1944 through to July 1945 in the South East Pacific operations as a Black Cat on sea mining missions. Its' most famous mission was to take part in the longest Black Cat mining mission of the War - to mine Manila Harbour in December 1944 to bottle up the Japanese Fleet ahead of the landings in the</p>		

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RK-A		There appear to be 2	Both with images	
RK-B		Gve image		
RK-D				
RK-D2				
RK-E	A24-96			
RK-F				
RK-G	A24-101			
RK-K				
RK-L	A24-100			
RK-M				
RK-N	A24-25?	Gve image		
RB-H		Gve image		
RB-X	A24-4			
	A24-301	Tail in Gove image	20 Sqn 31/12/44. Hit submerged reef and sank, 03/12/45. Jinamoc	
	A24-88	Gve image parade		

