

<http://www.adf-serials.com.au/2a24.htm>

RAAF S/N A24-4

Type PBY-5

C/N 113

Model 28-5MA

30/04/41 Departed San Diego.

05/05/41 Arrived Rose Bay via Qantas delivery flight "E" under civilian call sign VH-AFE.

06/05/41 Arrived Rathmines.

22/06/41 11 Squadron Coded OX-D.

14/08/41 20 Squadron.

31/01/42 STF (Seaplane Training Flight).

03/04/42 20 Squadron Coded **RB-X**.

09/07/42 20 Squadron.

15/09/43 3 OTU.

30/10/46 Sold to Kingsford-Smith Aviation Service Pty Ltd, Bankstown Airport, Sydney NSW.

RAAF S/N A24-96

Type PBY-5A

C/N 1896

Previous Bu.46532

42 Sqn 5/8/44.

Lost off Sumba Island, Netherlands East Indies. 1945-01-15.

Consolidated Catalina aircraft, serial no. A24-96, code RK-E of No. 42 Squadron RAAF, was destroyed by machine-gun fire. On the night of 14 January 1945, during a mission to Surabaya, a plane from No. 42 Squadron RAAF, captained by Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) Harrigan, experienced trouble with its port engine and immediately began to lose altitude. At the time Flt Lt Harrigan was flying at 300 feet below heavy cloud off Sumba Island. He jettisoned his mines, but the plane continued to lose altitude and he was forced to alight on the open sea. The hull of the Catalina aircraft was damaged and began to leak. However, the water was kept down by baling. Using the radio-telephone, the crew was able to make its position known to returning minelayers. All night they worked on the faulty engine, but without success. However, in the morning, a Catalina aircraft of No. 43 Squadron RAAF, captained by Flt Lt Ortlepp, landed in the heavy swell, covered by a Liberator aircraft, and took off Flt Lt Harrigan's crew. Flt Lt Ortlepp then destroyed the disabled Catalina aircraft with machine-gun fire and returned safely to base.