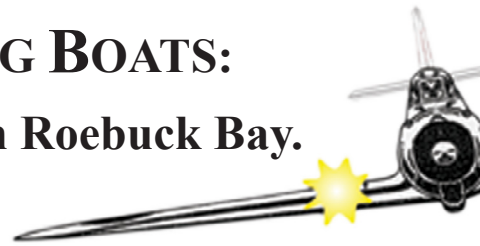


# BROOME'S WORLD WAR II FLYING BOATS:

## heritage trail guide for exposed wreck sites in Roebuck Bay.

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Broome's Roebuck Bay contains a sunken armada of historic flying boats from World War II, which is a unique archaeological resource. No other place in the world has such a collection of rare and historically significant flying boats, all of which were sunk in a matter of minutes of each other, creating a snap shot of a tragedy in Australia's aviation history. This guide provides information on six of the wreck sites that are exposed during astronomical spring low tides. In total, fifteen flying boats were destroyed during an air raid by nine Mitsubishi A6M.2 'Zero' fighters of the 3rd *Kokutai* (Aircraft Group), Imperial Japanese Navy, on 3 March 1942.

Break down of the aerial armada lost in Roebuck Bay:

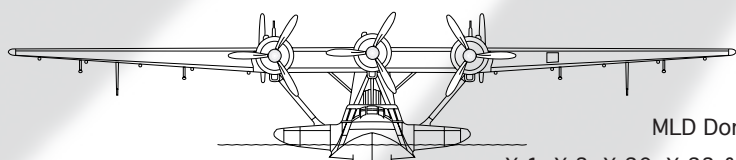
- Five Dornier Do 24Ks and four PBY-5 Catalinas of the Marineluchtvaartdienst (Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service - MLD). Some of these were filled with refugees fleeing the Japanese invasion of Java in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia).
- Two PBY-5 Catalinas of the Royal Air Force (from Singapore).
- Two PBY-4 Catalinas of the United States Navy Patrol Wing 10, which had retreated from the Philippines.
- Two four engine Short Empire flying boats, one being operated by the Royal Australian Air Force, the other by B.O.A.C.
- Only four of these aircraft have been identified in Roebuck Bay: The MLD's Dornier X-1, X-23, Catalina Y-59 and the RAF's Catalina FV-N, which are all exposed at low tide. Another nine flying boat wreck sites occur in the deep water channel, south of the exposed wreck sites, but these are all yet to be located and identified.

Approximately 80 people (including women and children) were killed during the air raid. Not all of their names were recorded.

### NOTES ON WALKING TO THE LOW TIDE WRECK SITES AND VISITOR PROTOCOLS:

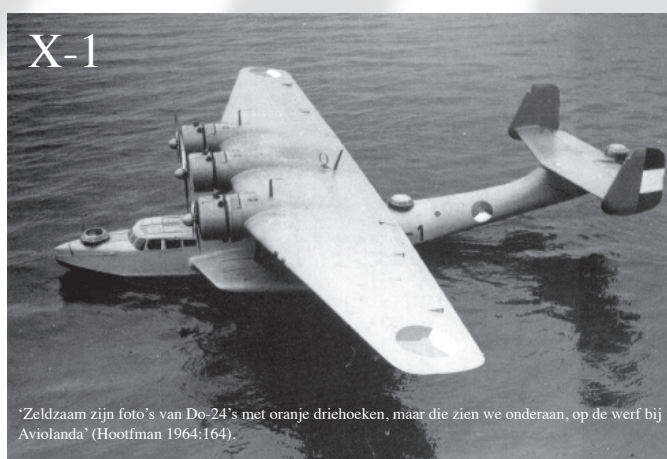
- 1) Leave Town Beach an hour before low tide - approximately 30 minute walk to reach the wrecks
- 2) Wrecks visible when tide depth is at least 1.3m or lower
- 3) The Broome flying boat wrecks are protected under the 'Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990'  
- please do not disturb the wrecks, do not remove artefacts and do not walk on exposed structures

Please turn over for wreck site details and descriptions.



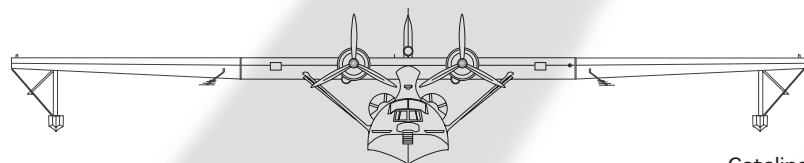
MLD Dorniers:

X-1, X-3, X-20, X-23 & X-28



X-1

'Zeldzaam zijn foto's van Do-24's met oranje driehoeken, maar die zien we onderaan, op de werf bij Aviolanda' (Hooftman 1964:164).

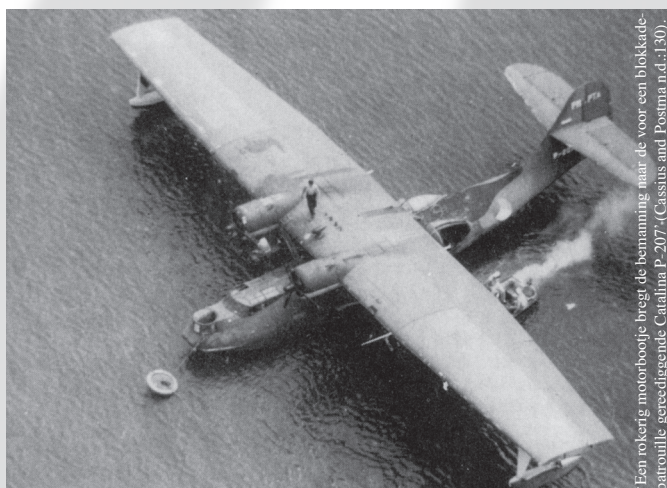


Catalinas:

MLD - Y-59, Y-60, Y-67 & Y-70

RAF - FV-W & FV-N

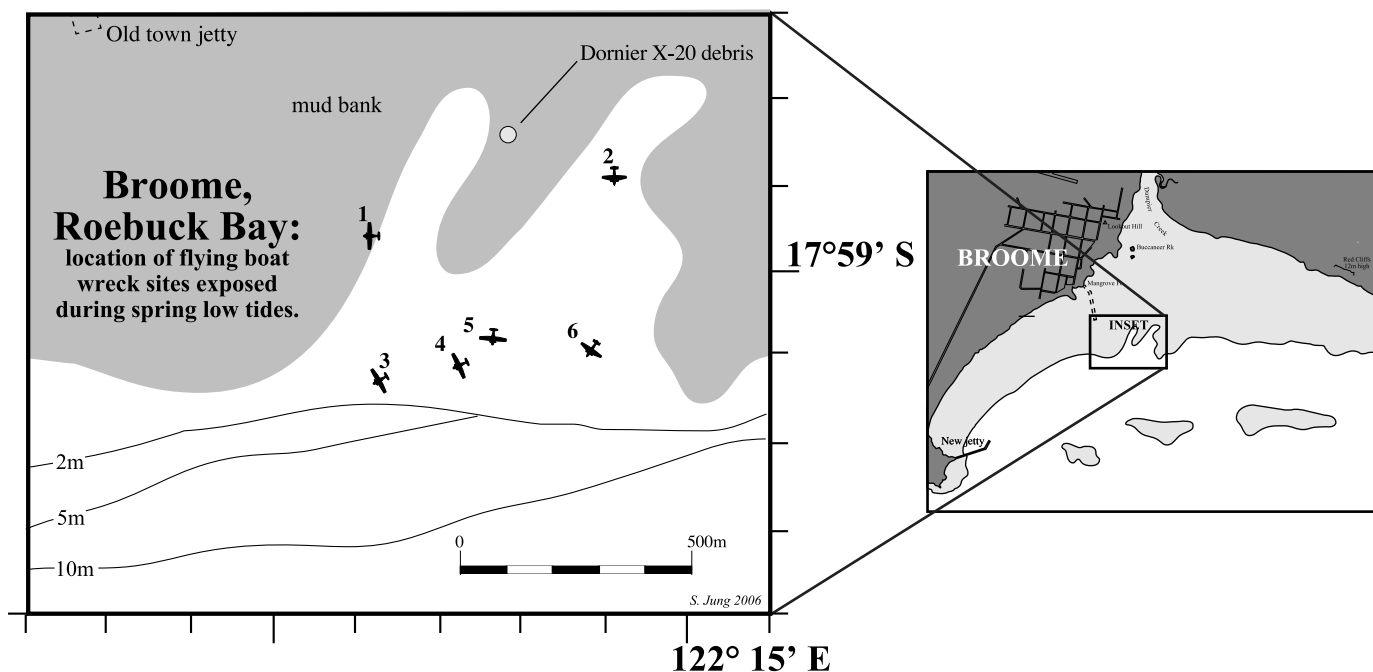
U.S. Navy - #6 & #7



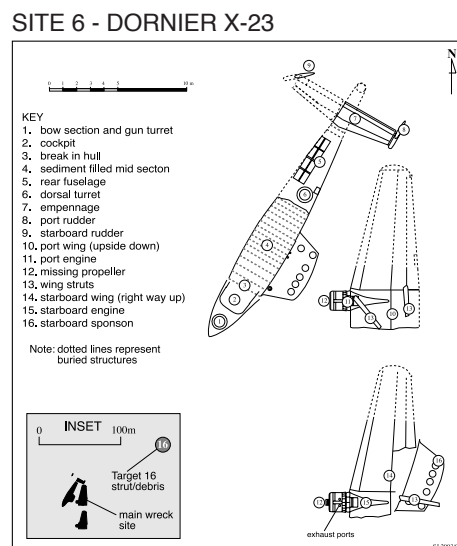
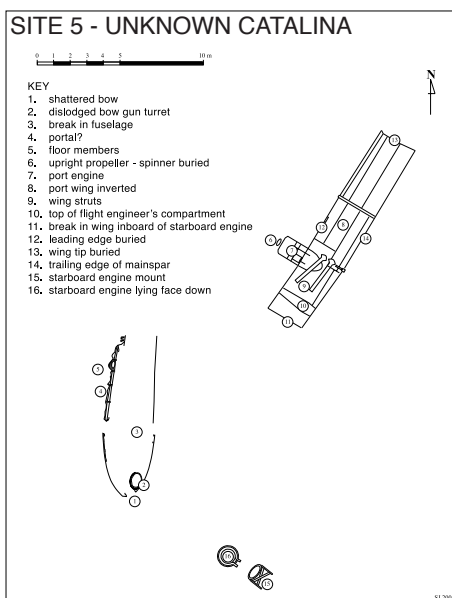
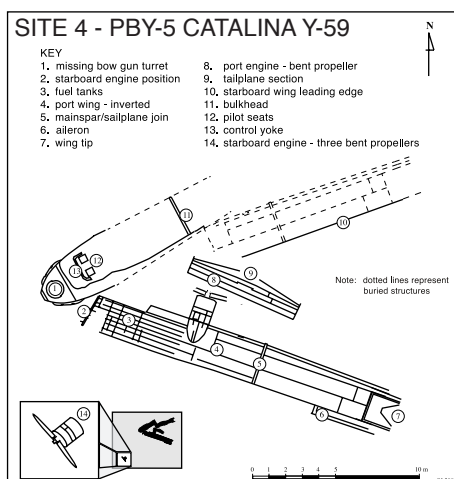
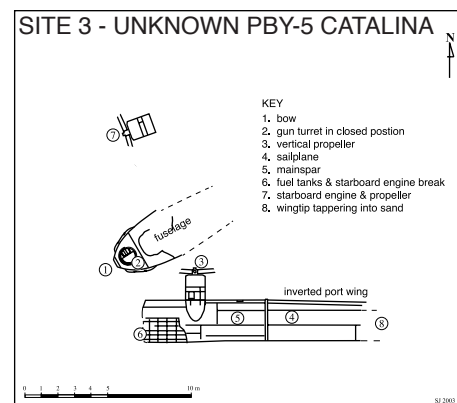
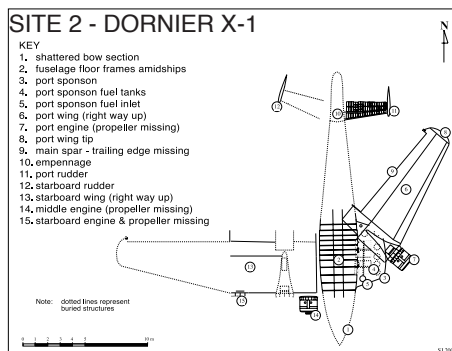
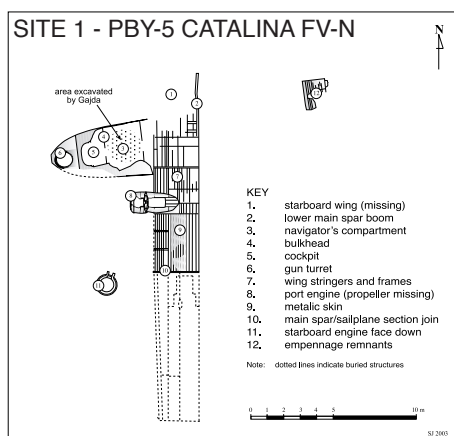
Een rokerig motorbootje bregt de bemanning naar de voor een blokkade-patrouille gereedgemaakte Catalina P-207. (Cassius and Postma n.d.:130).



Unit Emblems (left to right: 205 Squadron RAF,  
Marineluchtvaartdienst, VP-101 Patrol Wing 10 U.S. Navy,  
33 Squadron RAAF, B.O.A.C.)



## WRECK SITE PLANS - REFER TO CHART ABOVE



## CASUALTIES PER FLYING BOAT:

**SITE 1 - FVN:** crew – McKiernan C., Garnell H., Markland W.G., Singh M.M., Ellerby H. and Morris J.

**SITE 2 - X-1:** refugees – Piers-Morien C.G.E., Piers C. and Piers F., + unknown number

**SITE 3 - UNKNOWN**

**SITE 4 - Y-59:** crew – Albinus C.F.J., van Aggelen J.G., Borsch M., van Emmerik B., Spreeuw E.G.A., van Tour A.  
refugees – Arendz J.M., van Aggelen-van Kooten J.A., de Bruijn A.A., de Bruijn H., Borsch-Baars J.G.,  
van Emmerik B.A.P., van Tour I. [Catharina] and Vermeij J., + unknown number

**SITE 5 - UNKNOWN**

**SITE 6 - X-23:** crew - van Houten C.L.