

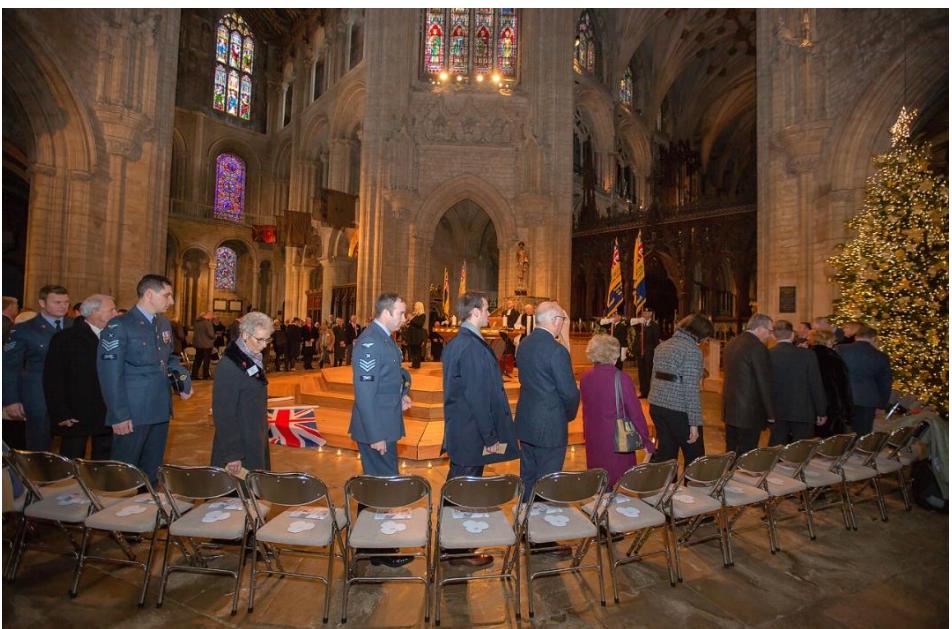
The Heligoland39 Project

PROGRESS REPORT & POST PANDEMIC ASPIRATIONS

From: Jack Waterfall – October 2021

Hopes for the future:

It seems an absolute age since we all got together to mark the beginning of the 80th anniversary year of the Heligoland Battle, in Ely Cathedral and the commemoration service at Runnymede a year later. Both memorable gatherings when we all began to get to know everyone connected to that 1939 history.



Families Gather at The Bomber Command Memorial, Ely Cathedral - 18th December 2018



80th Anniversary Commemoration - RAF Memorial Runnymede - 18th December 2019

For the past eighteen months our lives in general have been disrupted by COVID-19 and have yet to fully return to a semblance of life as it was, perhaps a 'new normal' is just around the corner, who knows?

Not all of us will have got through this unscathed but I hope this communication finds most of you in good heart, with a determination to go on in a spirit of hope for the future.

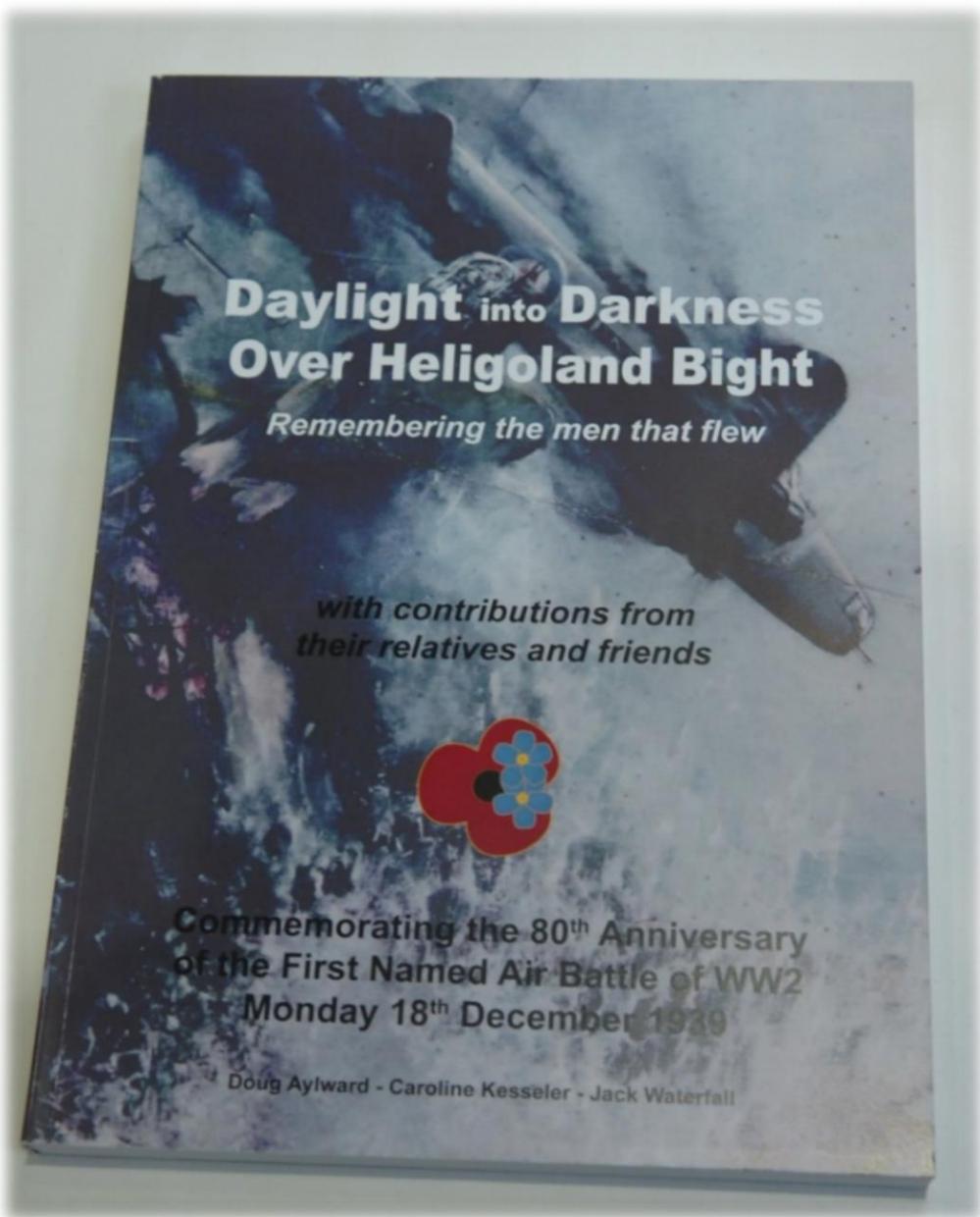
PROGRESS REPORT

The H39 Book

Caroline Kesseler and Doug Aylward have continued with much research for the H39 book and I would like to thank those of you that have contributed to this work.

Such is the quantity of information coming in that publication has currently been delayed until 7th July 2022

Also, at our book production meeting in June it was decided that the title of the volume should be looked at again. To that end we wish to put the issue out for consultation.



H39 Book Title Suggestion FORM

Working Title:	'Daylight into Darkness Over Heligoland Bight'
Working Strapline:	'Remembering the men that flew'
Suggested Final Title:	
Final Strapline:	
Suggested Illustration: (Send picture below)	
Suggestion From:	
Date:	
Contact Details:	

Please send your suggestions to Caroline via caroline.kesseler@ntlworld.com

The Loch Ness Wellington 2020 Project

Rachel Kellett, Tim Harris and I endeavoured to organise a commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the ditching of The Loch Ness Wellington N2980, which now is fully restored and on display at Brooklands Museum, Weybridge.

With the assistance of Vic Attwood, an old friend of Tim's and resident of Inverness, a very valuable network of people linked to the history or interested in supporting our endeavour has been established.



RAF Lossiemouth flew a Typhoon Eurofighter over the Loch in October 2020.

Link to Scottish Television Coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ouQOLorFBc>

A memorial service was conducted in Inverness Cathedral on New Year's Eve.



A film presentation of the proceedings can be viewed on the project websites:
www.lochnesswellington2020.org and www.heligoland39.org.

A permanent memorial plaque is currently being planned for installation when possible.

Contact with the USA

One significant achievement is the establishment of communications with Martin Klein in the USA. Marty is the Sonar specialist who discovered the wreckage of N2980 in 1976 and was very keen to replace an American plaque which was erected on the bank of the loch in 2002.

The Discovery of 'R' for Robert

In 1976 Martin Klein and Charles Finkelstein of Klein Associates, New Hampshire, USA used a Klein Side Scan Sonar for a scientific survey of Loch Ness, in collaboration with the Academy of Applied Science led by Robert Rines. They noticed what looked like a twin-engine aircraft on the sonar traces.

After consulting locals in Drumnadrochit they speculated that the aircraft was a PBY-Catalina. In 1978 Klein returned with colleagues Garry Kozak and Tom Cummings. They made an improved image (shown here), and Cummings noted that "It looks like a Wellington bomber."

A team from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh later made another search and determined that the aircraft was Wellington N2980, 'R' for Robert.

This plaque was designed in consultation with:

The Academy of Applied Science, Boston, Massachusetts USA.

Images Courtesy of:

Martin Klein and the MIT Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts USA.

Unveiling ceremony organised by:

The Helgoland39 Project, Ely, Cambridgeshire, UK



15th July 2021



Charles Finkelstein
& Martin Klein



Garry Kozak
& Tom Cummings



Andrew Stewart set the veil in the Wellington Layby



Ian Benzie explains the history of 'R' for Robert

Order of Ceremony

Introduction by Ian Benzie – Retired Headmaster of Drumsmittal Primary School

On this day in 1978 Marty Klein returned to Loch Ness to capture an improved image of what turned out to be the wreckage of Wellington N2980. Two years earlier, purely by chance, he and his team of Sonar experts unknowingly recorded the same information while searching for Nessie. They did not realise what had been discovered until they reviewed their traces after arriving home to USA.

Unveiling & Tribute by Adrian Shine – Leader of The Loch Ness Project

Dedication by Len Black – Priest & Retired Broadcaster

POST PANDEMIC ASPIRATIONS

Poppies on the Water

It is hoped that a gathering in the Highlands will be possible in 2022 or 2023, post pandemic.

Currently prototypes of floating poppies are being prepared for testing this winter, ready for filming on Loch Ness with Loch Ness RNLI, HM Coastguard, Caley Cruisers & Jacobite Cruisers when the time is right.



Making a SPLASH



Designed to float on the surface



Loop for boathook recovery



Loch Ness RNLI RIB based at Drumnadrochit

Note: The same stunt is also being evaluated in the North Sea by Wells next the Sea RNLI (N2961) & Carnegie Heritage Centre, Hull, (N2983) and in Heligoland Bight by Wilhelmshaven Marine Police & Jever Airfield Military Heritage.

Scheduled updates detailing progress will be available on www.heligoland39.org from time to time. Delivery of these events will mark the conclusion of The Heligoland39 Project.

Direct Contact

Please feel free to make direct contact with me should you so wish.

1 Castlehythe, ELY CB7 4BU UK - 044 (1)353 665665 - jack.waterfall@ntlworld.com

Best Wishes Jack

End+