



The Painting is by Edward Walkey

Title: Salterns HQs in WW2

Subject: Arrival of the *Berwick* registered as G-AGCA - a BOAC Flying Boat (Boeing 314A Type)

Also: Squadron of Spitfires escorting Flying Boat

And: PBY II & III Catalinas are on their Moorings

View: Across Poole Harbour towards Brownsea Is.

Salterns was the Headquarters of 210 Squadron when based at RAF Hamworthy in 1943 under the control of Coastal Command - and shared with Transport Command / BOAC

210 Squadron had been re-equipped with Consolidated Catalina Flying Boats replacing Sunderlands, and became known as the Catalina Squadron. The Squadron moved from Pembroke Dock in Wales, switching with RAAF 461 Squadron (the Anzac Squadron) which had been at Poole from Sept. 1942.

Edward Walkey was on 210 Squadron at RAF Hamworthy (Poole) from 21st. April to 31st. Dec. 1943 as a Member of the Groundcrew, with its responsibility for FB Maintenance and Security at the Sites. He was billeted locally in Lilliput just a brisk walk from Salterns at 'The Arches', Anthonys Avenue. Squadron Members were transferred down-harbour from Salterns to Hamworthy by RAF Launches... where the FB Base there with its Slipway and Hardstanding had been built by the Foreshore at Lake. Otherwise, to get to around Poole bicycles and buses had to be used, hitch a lift, or journey by foot !

Edward Walkey is a recognised artist who believes that it is important to record his Memories by Art - especially noted for his paintings of his former hometown of Pontypridd, and of his WW2 postings. His artwork is particularly striking for its unique style, and of course with a degree of artistic licence. He remarks that during the war photography was forbidden, whereas memories can be recalled later. Edward now lives in Cheltenham, and has kindly donated this marvellous, vibrant painting to PFBC.

Edward writes:

“ My painting from memory is of Salterns Yacht Club as it was in 1943. The Pontoon Jetty which was used to ferry ground and aircrews to the Catalinas moored near Brownsea Island, was situated to the right of the building. The green shed on the left side of the building was the carrier pigeon shed which kept the pigeons to be carried on aircraft in an emergency if any of these had to ditch over the Atlantic...

The pontoon jetty would have been approximately situated where the middle of the 3 blocks of apartments are now.

My memory of the Architecture of the Yacht Club is rather hazy ! As a young 20 year old airman I was more into feminine architecture, than that of Bricks and Mortar, but the rest of the picture is more or less true including the Fordson crew bus.

The flag pole was my companion on guard duty. I used to waltz around it holding a 303 rifle complete with 12” bayonet, doing anything to stay awake ! I was guarding my bit of the South coast of England against the German army, with a mere 5 rounds of ammunition which I kept in my pocket for safe keeping.

They didn’t come, so I was able to hand my bullets back in.

When I last visited the area much had changed at Salterns & Hamworthy: Nothing remains the same for long, only the Memory ! ”



Edward was greatly helped by his local library in providing this overhead shot of Salterns Area as it is today, where he makes the following notes for identification:

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|---|--|---|---|
| A | Salterns Mole flanking the Blue Lagoon | B | The landfall of former Salterns RAF Jetty |
| C | The former Poole Harbour Yacht Club | D | Former Flagpole (Edward's Companion !) |
| E | The former Salterns RAF Guardhouse | F | Ex-unmade road: Roundabout added 1943 |

The former RAF Salterns Pier and landing jetty (both of wooden construction) are shown — . — . — .



MEMORY LANE:

Spencer Place used to be behind Taff Street. Rolls of newsprint would be rolled down the slope to the press, above

FLYING BOATS:

Artist Edward (Ted) Walkey with a painting of his time in the RAF, left

Newspaper Extract of Edward Walkey with his Painting underway of Salterns RAF HQs...

and also encompassing various of his artwork which focuses upon his Memories of Pontypridd



THE PALLADIUM CINEMA IN PONTYPRIDD, NOW THE SOMERFIELD SUPERMARKET



THE ARCADE IN MARKET SQUARE, PONTYPRIDD, AS REMEMBERED IN THE 1930S-50S BEFORE IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE CO-OP

Presentation of Edward's Lovely Painting made on his behalf by Lilliput and Salterns Local Historian and Hon. Vice President of PFBC Jeremy Waters.

Accepting this Painting by Edward for PFBC is Commodore Ken Sanson on the occasion of PFBC's Flying Fish n Chip Supper celebrating the History of Flying Boats of Bermuda (A Presentation by Colin Pomeroy) on 25th. March 2010, Lilliput Sailing Club



Edward also includes within his Portfolio of Paintings four others which have relevance to Aviation History:



This is my Memory of seeing Alan Cobham's (later Sir Alan Cobham) National Air Day on 25th. August 1932. I was nine years old at Weston-Super-Mare on holiday with my marvellous parents.

We travelled over from Cardiff - now Cardiff Bay on a Campbell's White Funnel Paddle Steamer which was 2 funnelled Glen Gower, later sunk at Dunkirk. The yellow biplane, a DeHavilland Fox Moth was used by sightseers.

My strong Memory of a 'Scramble' one Evening at Killaden in N.Ireland when viewed from the landing piers - with two Marine Tenders, also a Seaplane Tender and the Crash Tender...

RAF Coastal Command based Sunderlands and Catalinas there in WW2 for reconnaissance of the Atlantic coastline.

St. Angelo Airfield was three miles to the left, and today is re-named as Enniskillen Airport.



My personal memory from the day in 1944 when I went to County Tyrone - to Fintona to buy a shirt without my clothing coupons and got a ride on the horse-drawn tram on the village branchline. Several WAAFs were warning a colleague on a date with her guy not to do anything that they wouldn't do ! To which the reply was 'Gives me bags of scope !'

The aircraft were from the RAF Killaden or Castle Archdale, N.I.

Chelgrove - Oxfordshire
from my Memory...

No.8c OTU Training for
(Photographic Unit)...
I was working on the
Master II + Spitfires IX
and XIs

The Hangar was used by
Martin Baker Co. who
were testing the only
RAF ejection seats using
Glos Meteors

A tall scaffolding tower
alongside the hangar had
a net across the top to
catch the dummies.
There were quite a few
misses witnessed !

