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# Avro Anson Aircraft Wreck

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## Location

OFF KIRK POINT COCOROC, CORIO BAY

## Municipality

WYNDHAM CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

D7821-0072

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 125374

Property Number

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## Veterans Description for Public

The A4 Avro 652 Anson crashed into Corio Bay off Kirk Point, on the 11th March 1942, whilst returning from Sale via Yanakie and Torquay by night. The pilot Flight Lieutenant J.L. Webb (1371), Navigators Flying Officer K.C. Peters (827) and No. 2931 W/O R.J. Barker and W/T Operator No. 21892 ACI H.G. Lincoln were all killed. Their bodies were recovered on the 13th March 1942. (Recorded in General Reconnaissance School Laverton Unit Logs).

The Anson, known affectionately as "Faithful Annie", has a special place in RAAF history as more of them - 1,028 - were operated by the service than any other type. It was also the RAAF's first low wing monoplane, the first with

a retractable undercarriage and with a enclosed gun turret. First ordered in 1935 as part of the RAAF's modernisation programme, the Anson was conceived as a general reconnaissance bomber and was initially used for maritime patrol duties. Deliveries of the first order of 48 aircraft began in November 1936 and were completed in September 1938. Allocated serial number A4-1 to 48 these aircraft served with Nos 2, 4, 21, 22 and 23 Squadrons on maritime patrol work. Although already obsolete as a front line aircraft before the Second World War started, the lack of any suitable replacement led to a further 40 machines being chartered from the British Government and these were delivered during 1938 and 1939. These aircraft retained their British serial numbers.

Upon replacement in the maritime reconnaissance role by the Lockheed Hudson in 1940, the Anson found a new lease of life as a trainer for Observers and Navigators under the Empire Air Training Scheme and no fewer than 937 Anson Mk. 1s were delivered to the RAAF between 1940 and 1944. These aircraft also flew with their original British serial numbers, and although most served with a variety of over 40 training units, some were fitted with ASV radar and patrolled the Eastern seaboard of Australia with Nos. 66, 67, 71 and 73 Squadrons.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

(Avro 652 Anson)

DESCRIPTION: General Reconnaissance Bomber

OTHER ROLES: Multi Engine Trainer

IN SERVICE: 1937 to 1950

POWER PLANT: 2 355 hp Armstrong Siddley Cheetah IX Radials

WEIGHTS: Empty 5,512 lbs (2,500 kg), Loaded 7,955 lbs (3,608 kg)

DIMENSIONS: Wingspan 56 ft 6 in (17.22 m), Length 42 ft 3 in (12.88 m), Height 13 ft 1 in (3.99 m)

PERFORMANCE: Max Speed 163 kts (302 kmh), Cruise 138 kts (256 kmh), Service Ceiling 19,500 ft (5,944 m), Range 710 nm (1,315 km)

ARMAMENT: 20.303 machine guns, one fixed in nose, & one in Dorsal turret; Bomb Load 360 lbs`

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*