CANADIAN NAVAL AVIATION

1914 -1970

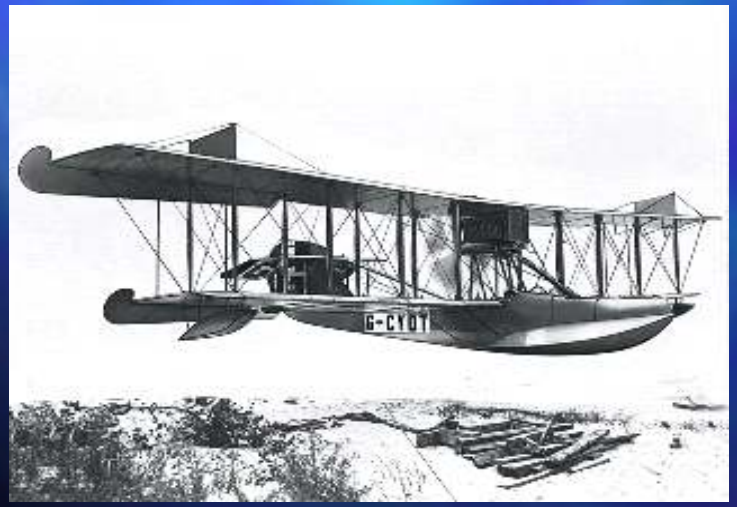
Part I - The Early Years

Adm. (P) Horatio Nelson

World War I

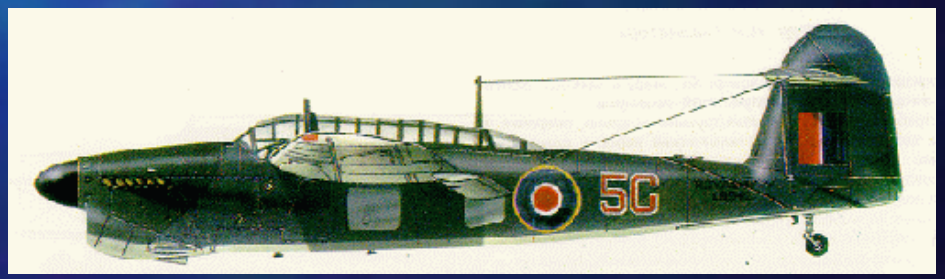
- 1914 - RNAS accepts volunteers from Canada. Require Aero-club Cert of Prof.
- 1915 - Formal Recruiting commenced.
- 1916 - Training takes place in RNAS schools.
- Total of 635 serve with RNAS.
- 1918 - RNAS and RFC form RAF.
- RCNAS formed in Sep 1918 with 64 Cadets selected.
- All recruiting and airport construction stops Dec 1918.
- Lt Byrd, USN, at Baker Point.
- 1919 - RCNAS fades away.

US Naval Air Station
Halifax, NS
Aug 1918 - Jan 1919
CO - Lt. Richard E. Byrd USN



PART II - WW II

- Canadians were flying in RNFAA since the beginning of the war.
- In December 1942, Admiralty proposed training RCNVR Officers as Pilots and Observers to fly with RN.
- Offer accepted March 1943.



THE FIRST RCN CARRIERS

- RCN operated 2 Escort Carriers, HMS Nabob and HMS Puncher.
- Ships' companies were manned by RCN.
- Aircrew were RN, RCNVR.
- Nabob in service Sep 43, Puncher Feb 44.

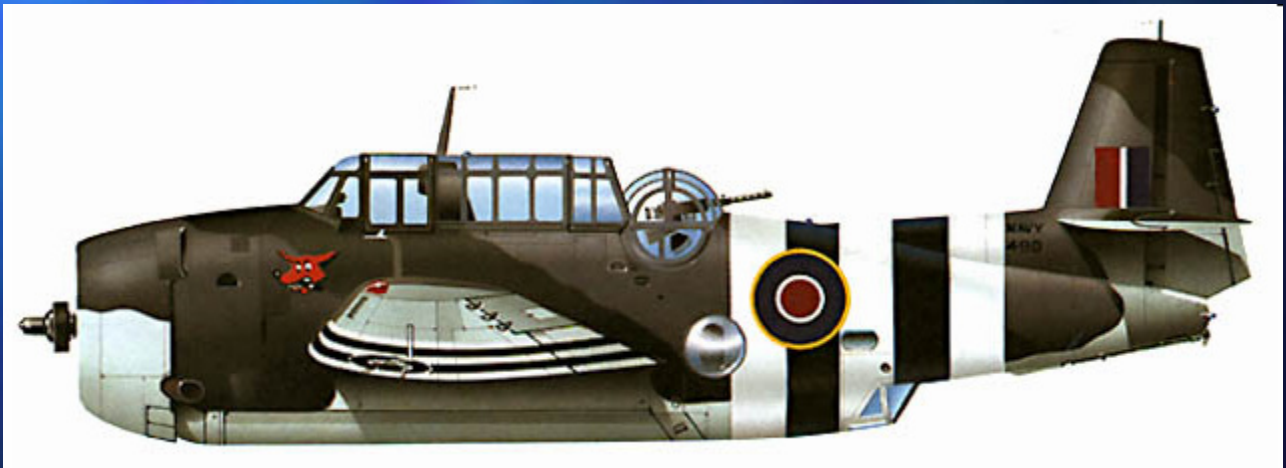
HMS Nabob

HMS Puncher

NABOB/PUNCHER AIRCRAFT

Grumman Wildcat

Grumman Avenger



NABOB'S BAD LUCK

- Nabob was hit in the stern by a torpedo 23Aug44.
- She was successfully towed into harbour, but dockyards were heavily tasked and it was decided not to repair her. She was used for spare parts.

DECORATIONS AND HONOURS

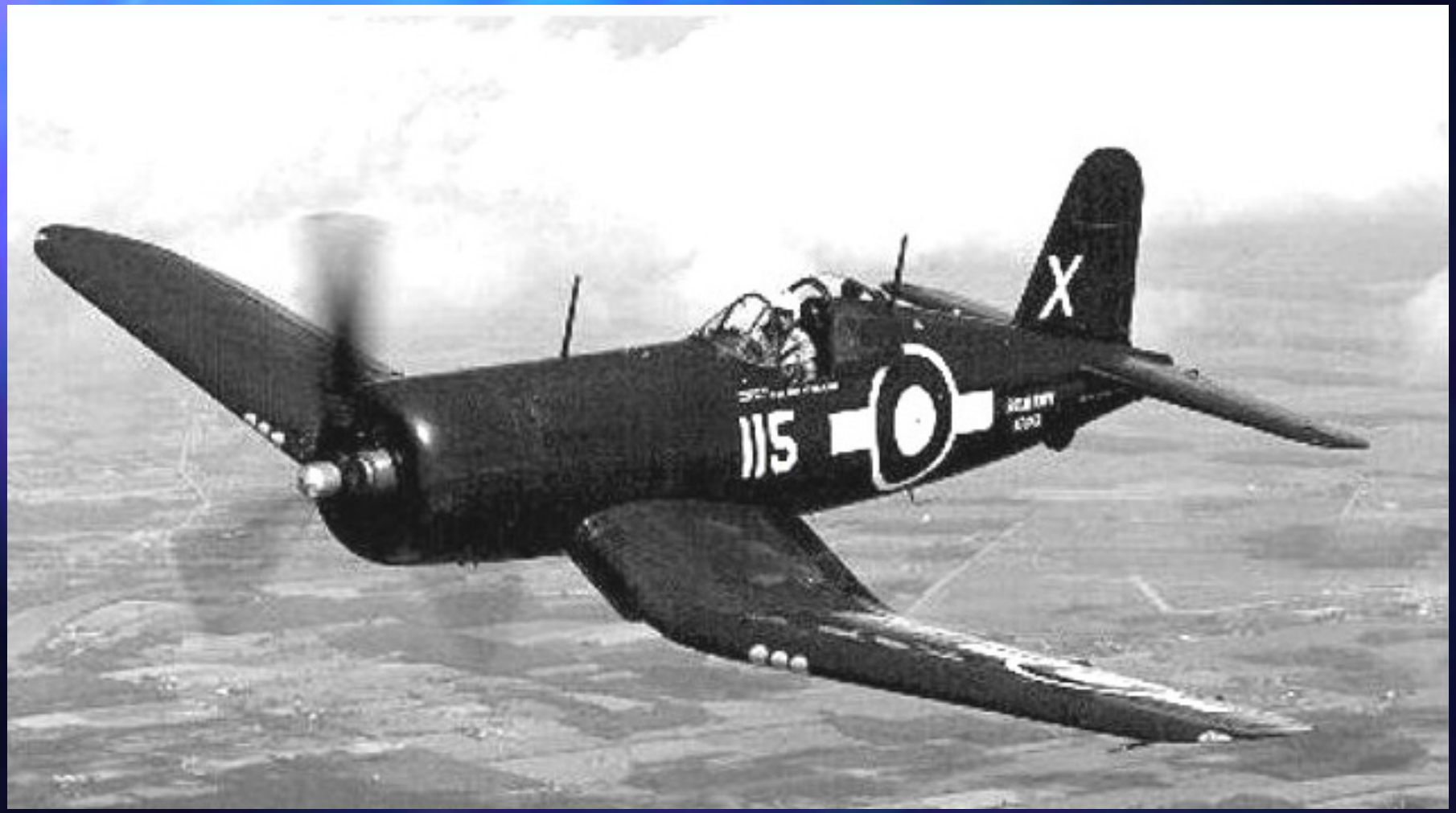
circ. 260 Canadian Aircrew served with RNFAA in WW II

- VICTORIA CROSS - 1
- Distinguished Service Order - 1
- Distinguished Service Medal -1
- Order of the British Empire - 1
- Legion of Merit (US) - 1
- Distinguished Service Cross - 21
- Mentioned in Dispatches - 20

Lt. Hampton Gray, VC, DSC RCNVR

- Flew Corsairs in 1841 Sqdn. from HMS Formidable.
- Led flight against Japanese warships in Onagawa Bay 9Aug45.
- Although his a/c was in flames, pressed his attack and sank Destroyer.

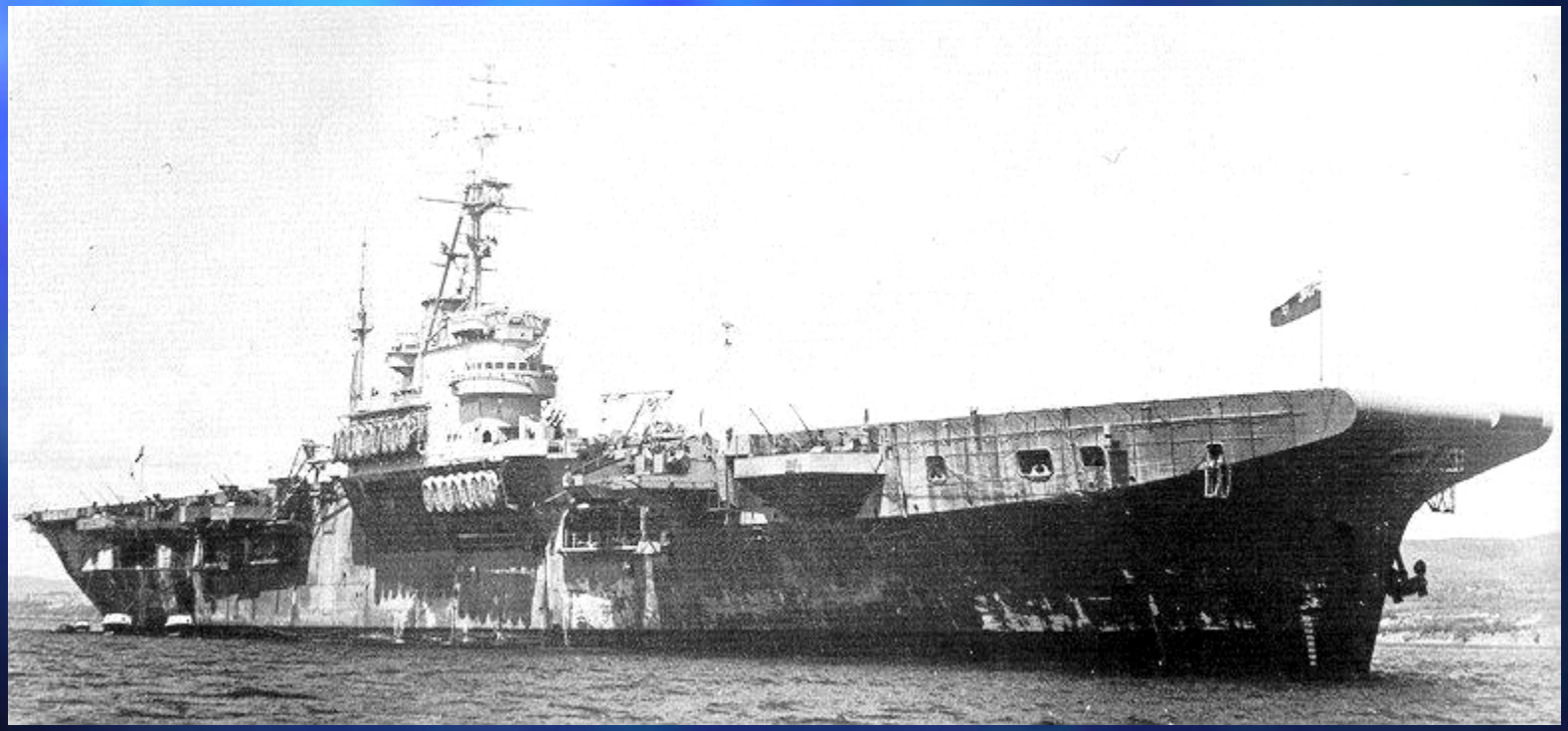
RNFAA F4U Corsair
(Lt. Hampton Gray,VC, DSC Markings)



PART III - POST-WAR YEARS

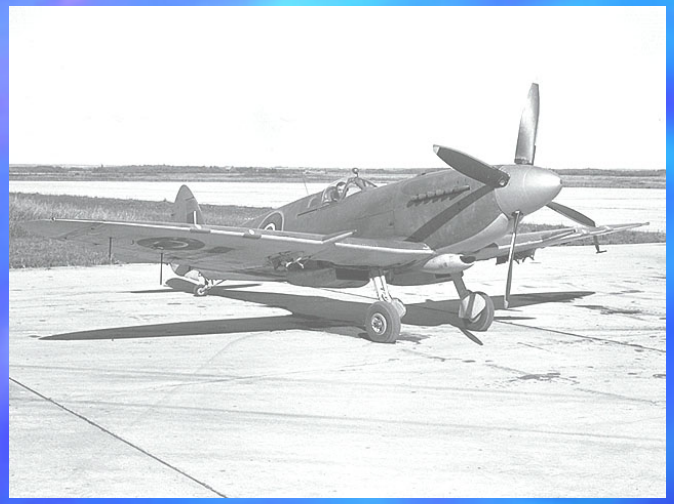
HMCS Warrior

1946 -1948



HMCS Magnificent
1948 -1957

Carrier Aircraft 1948 -1957



Supermarine Seafire

Fairey Firefly

Hawker Seafury

Carrier Aircraft - 1948 1957

Grumman Avenger AS3

Grumman Avenger
3W2 - AEW

PART IV - 1957 - 1970
THE BONAVENTURE YEARS

Length: 630 Ft Beam: 80 Ft Deck Ht: 25 Ft

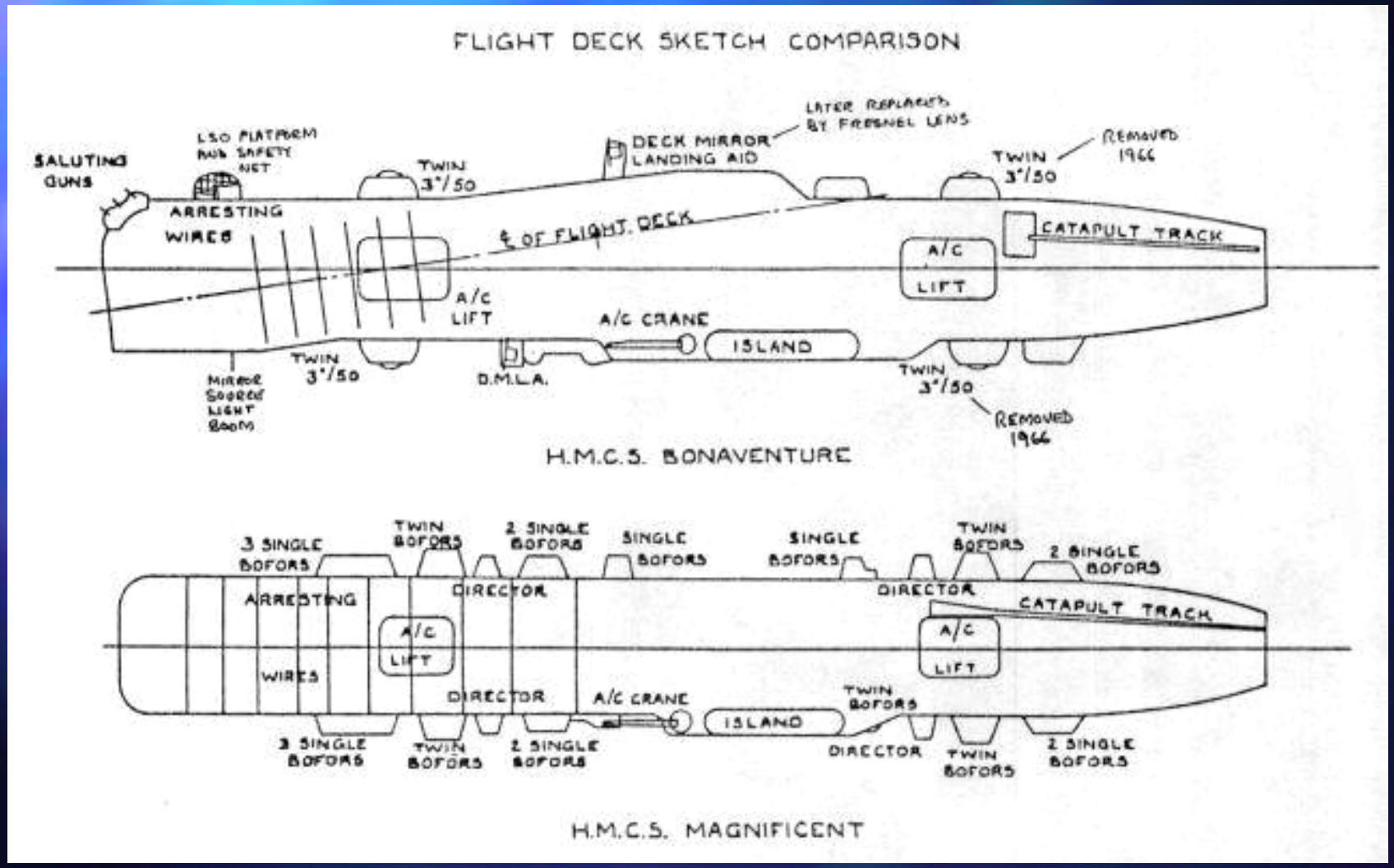
USS John C Stennis

Length: 1092 Ft Beam: 257 Ft Deck Ht: 65 Ft

Comparison

USS John C Stennis with HMS Invincible

Straight Deck vs Angled Deck



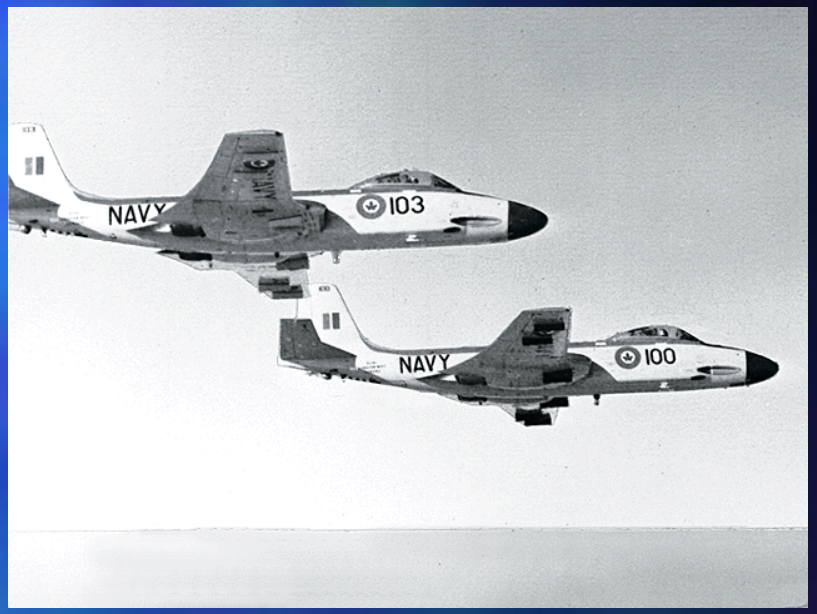
Straight vs Angled Deck

Straight-Deck: Missed wire results in Barrier Crash

Angled-Deck allows for "Bolter"

Bonaventure's Aircraft

CS2F Tracker



F2H3 Banshee

HO4S

"Pedro"

Sea King Helicopters

In HMCS Bonaventure

In Destroyer Helicopter Ops

Catapult Launch

TRACKER LANDING

Gotcha!

Tracker closing in for the kill as seen through the periscope of the RCN Submarine Onandaga

Storm at Sea

RCN Air Squadrons

VX10

HU21

VU32

VU33

VT40

HS50

VF870

VF871

RCN Air Squadrons

VS880 VS881

Carriers and Air Station

Warrior

Magnificent

Bonaventure

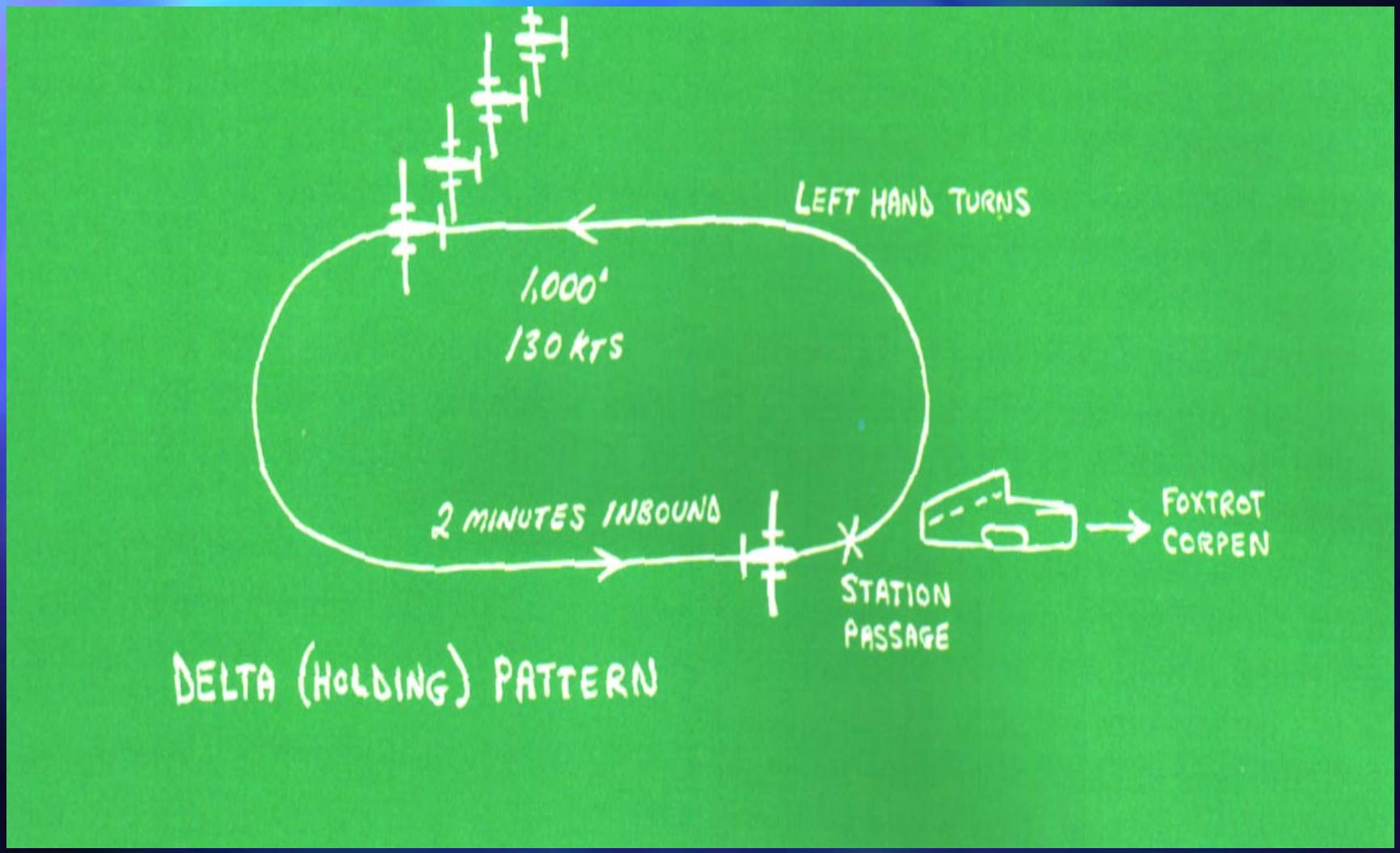
Shearwater

IN MEMORIAM

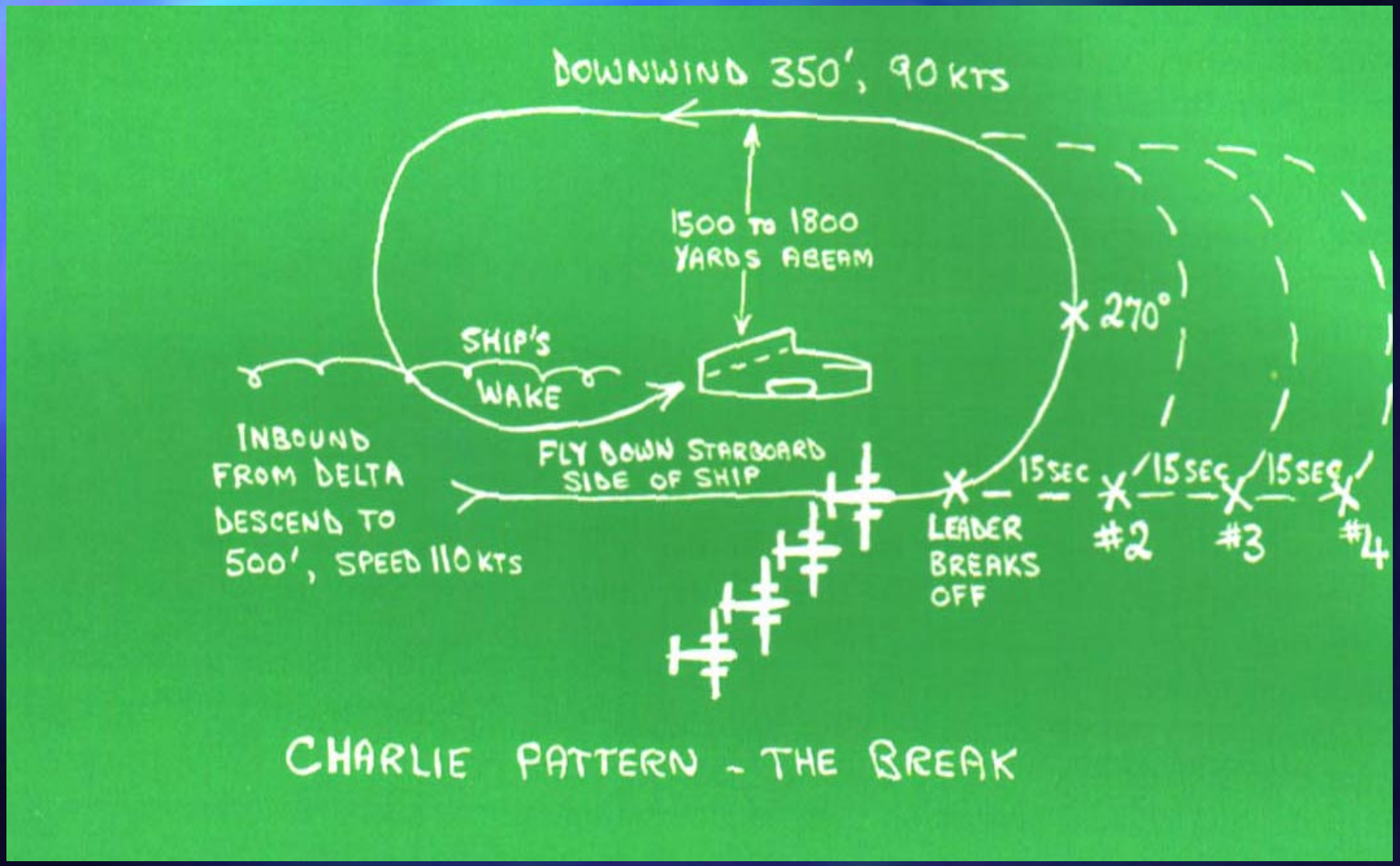
From the end of WWII to 3 Jul 70, 106 RCN Pilots, Observers, Naval Aircrewmen, and Groundcrew lost their life in flying operations at sea and ashore.

Bonaventure was de-commissioned in 1970 and sold for scrap. She had recorded 20,590 landings during her career from Jan 1957 to Jan 1970.

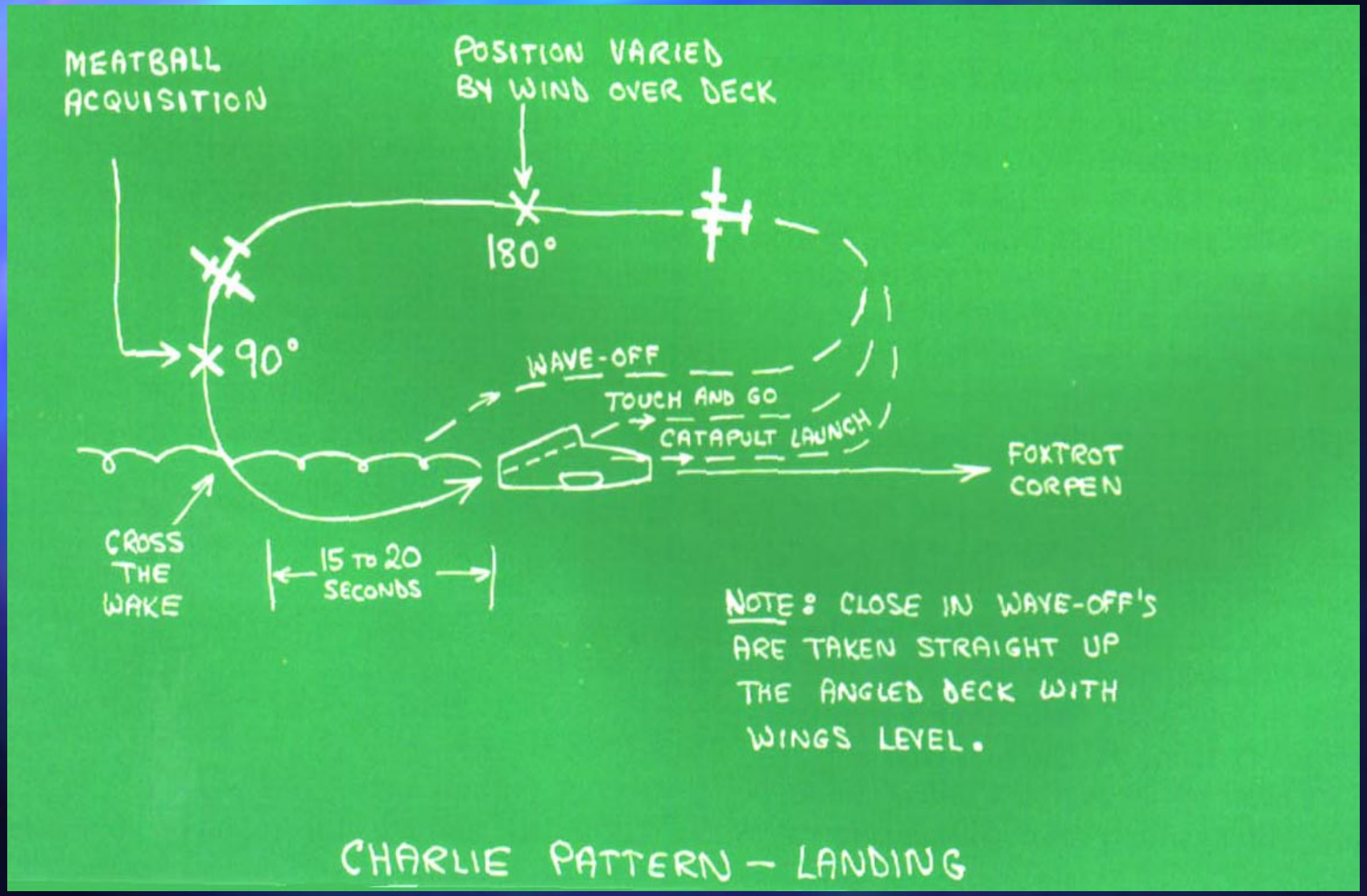
Delta (Holding) Pattern



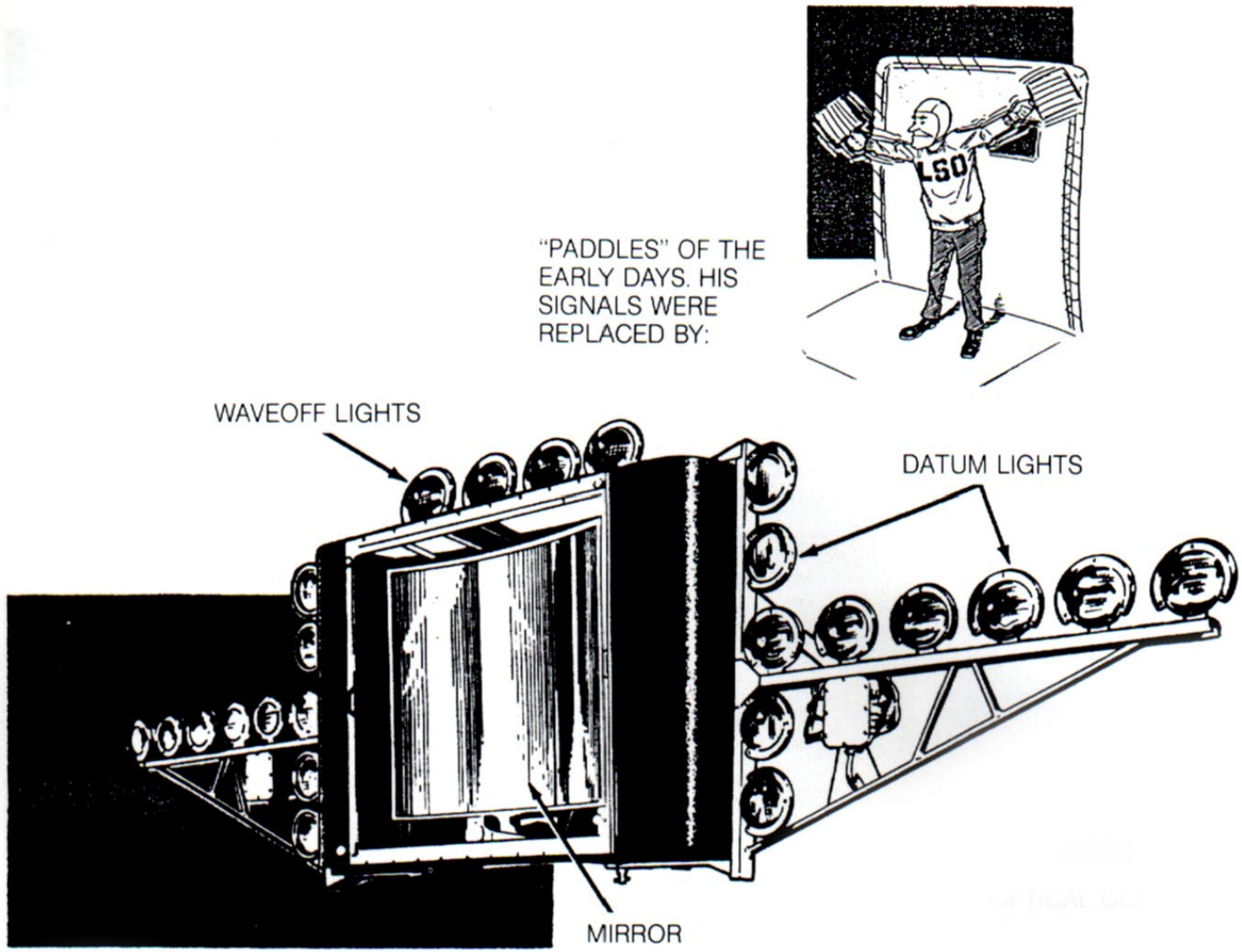
Charlie Pattern (Break)



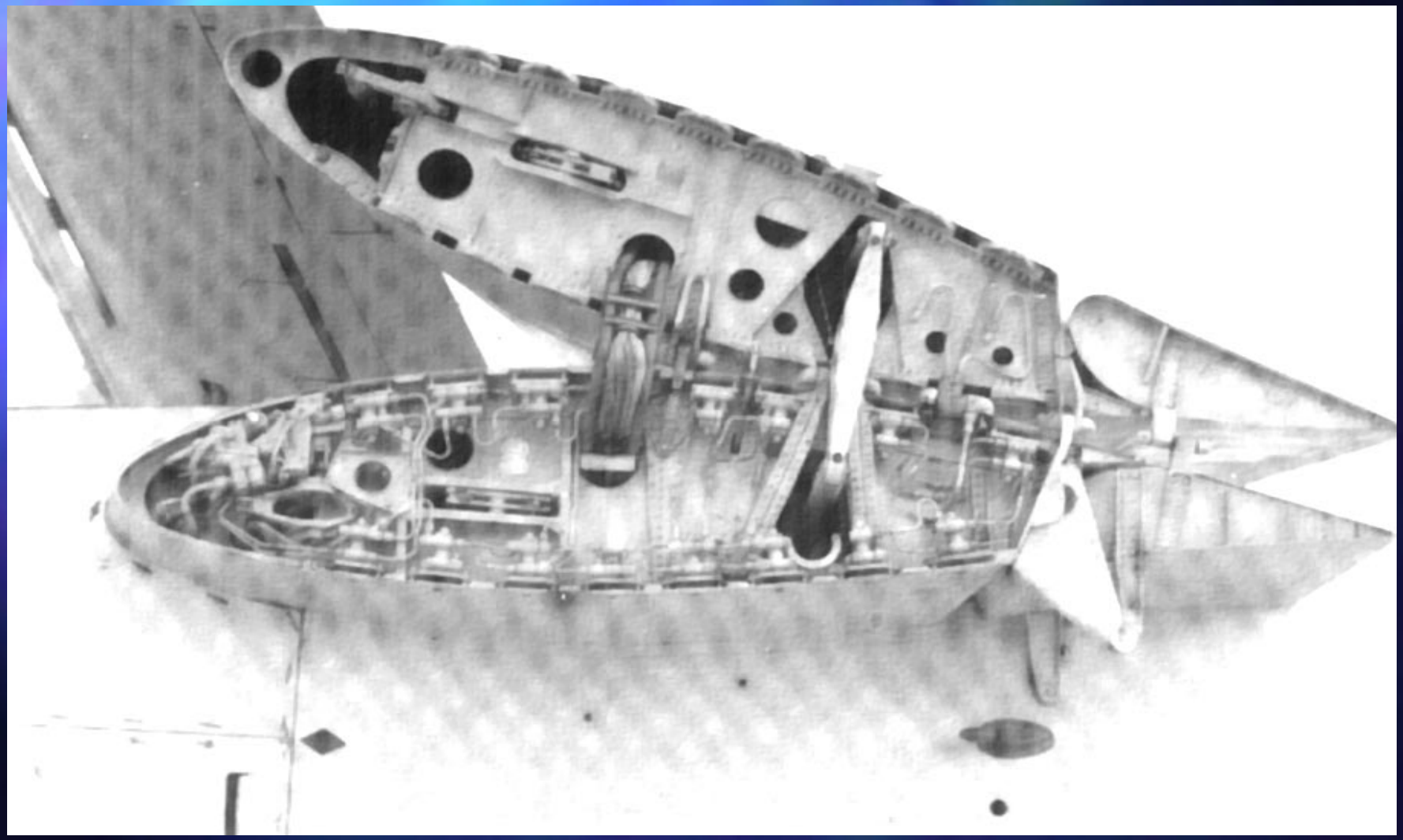
Charlie Pattern (Landing)



Mirror Landing System



CS2F Wing-Fold Mechanism



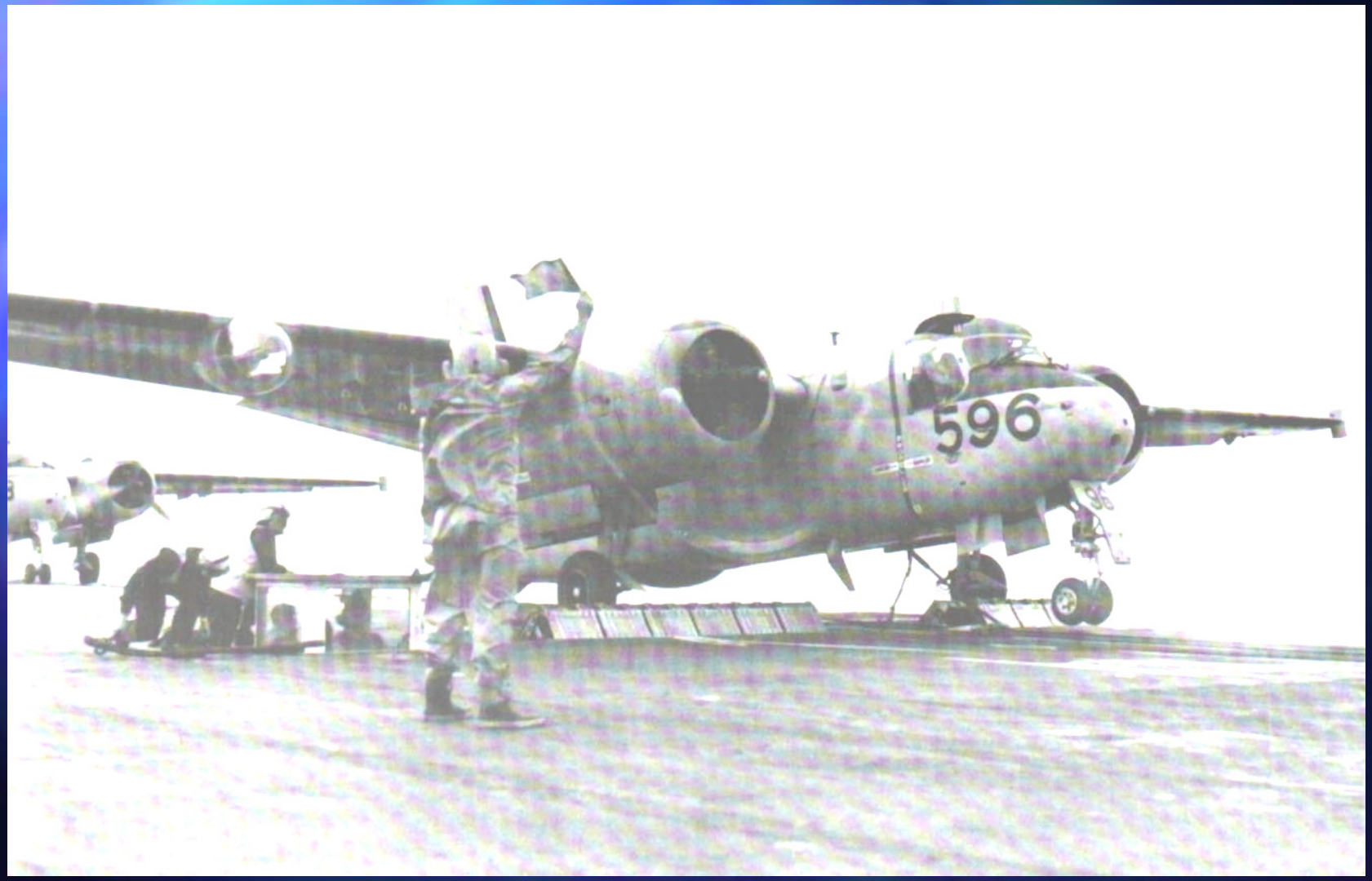
Tracker Wing Spread

Tracker Landing

Deck Park

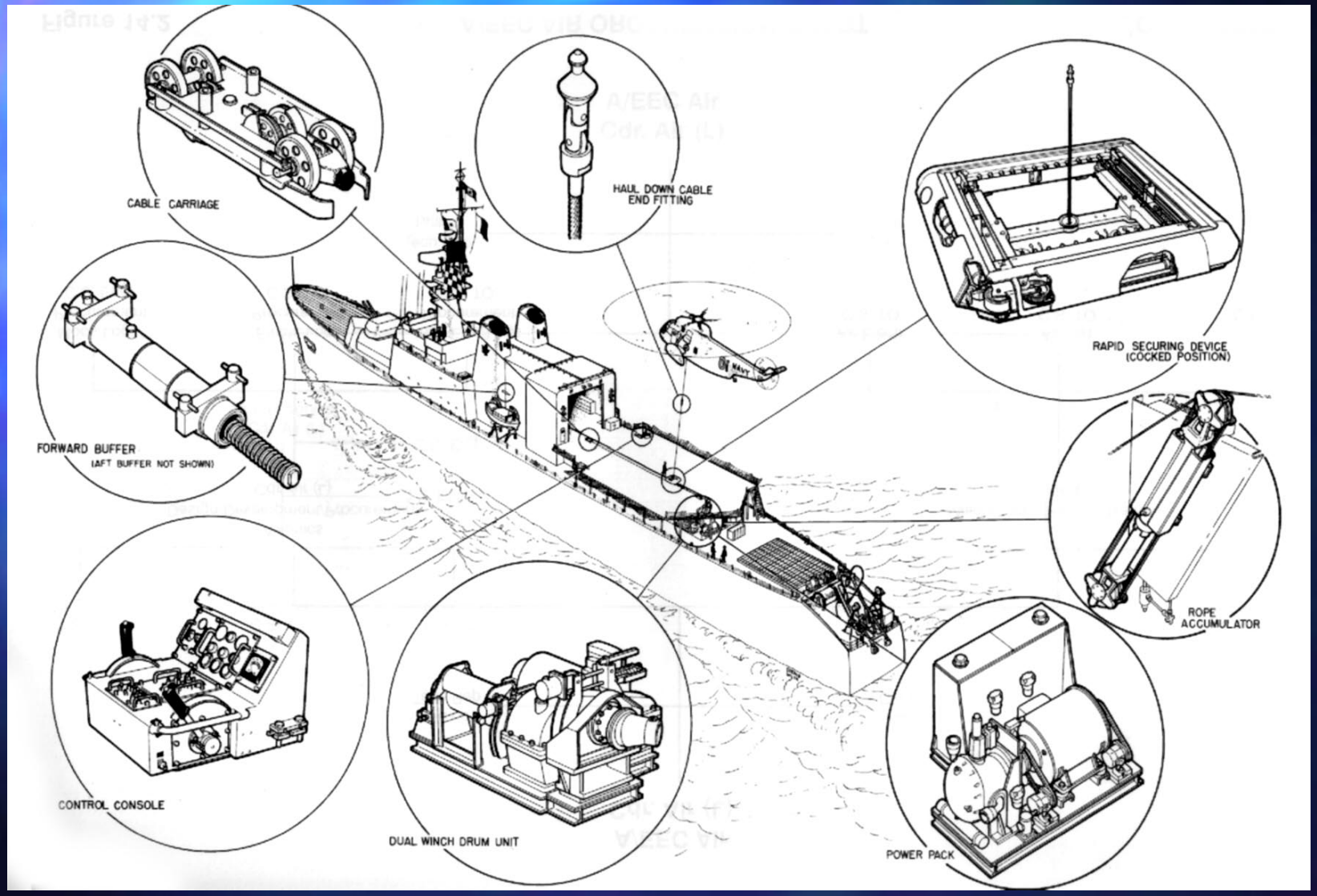
Hangar Deck

Ready for Catapult Launch



CS2F ASW Equipment

"Beartrap" System



The model for the naming of the "Julie" ASW weapons system.