



Dick Dakeyne (RAAF) standing beside 'Sandra Kay' – one of his regular 380th BG B-24 aircraft based at Fenton, NT



Aviation Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Guest Speaker to Talk at the Aviation Museum during Bombing of Darwin Commemorations on 19 February 2012

The Aviation Historical Society of the Northern Territory is pleased to announce a special talk during the 70th Bombing of Darwin commemoration events by guest speaker Mr Dick Dakeyne DFC. Mr Dakeyne will talk of his wartime experiences in Darwin and the Top End serving with the United States Army Air Force and later the RAAF flying in B-24 bombers.

Mr Dakeyne enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force and trained as a WAG (Wireless Air Gunner) and then received secret training on 'radar countermeasures' (RCM). His first operational posting was to an American Squadron flying bombing missions against the Japanese from the Fenton airstrip near Hayes Creek. He flew as a waist gunner/RCM operator in the four engined B-24 bombers and did two tours with the USAAF, initially with the 90th Bombardment Group, then the 380th BG and again with the 90th BG in (then) Dutch New Guinea. He was one of the first RCM operators to fly against the Japanese searching for and plotting Japanese radar sites in the islands north of Australia.

Mr Dakeyne was wounded in the 55th Japanese bombing raid on Darwin when RAAF Darwin and the Winnellie area were bombed on 20 June 1943.

**Venue: The Australian Aviation Heritage Centre
557 Stuart Highway Winnellie
(opposite the Showgrounds)**

Time: 12 noon Sunday 19 February 2012

Cost: The talk is a Free Event

(NB Museum will be open for ½ price for Sunday 19 February)