

William (Bill) Waddington

Born: 12, February 1921
Cumberland B.C.

Died: 21, June 1989
Cowichan, B.C.

Family: Wife Barbara

Pilot

RCAF

BC Airlines

Forest Industries

Flew Martin Mars

In Bill Waddington was a pilot in the RCAF during WWII, possibly flying for the RAF in Burma and India.

By 1949 Bill was flying Sea Bees for **BC Airlines**. In 1957 he was flying a Cessna 180 from Pender Island to Vancouver when he collided with a Beban Logging Company plane. Both planes ended up in the Georgia Strait. Two years later, he was reputed to be the first civilian pilot to fly Queen Elizabeth II when he was captain of the twin engine seaplane that flew her and Prince Philip to a fishing lodge near Merritt. His co-pilot was **John Boak**.

Bill was a friend of **Justin de Goutiere** whose book "The Pathless Way" includes a story about him when he was flying from Powell River to Vancouver and saw the oil pressure in his plane was dropping.

He landed in Pender Harbour and transferred his 3 passengers to another plane which had come up with an engineer to assist him with the repair. What followed was a litany of disasters that left them drifting at sea on the floatplane, whose damaged floats were slowly filling with water, until they were finally picked up by a Union Steamship. They waved goodbye to the ill-fated plane, which they later saw from the bridge as she turned over and disappeared.

Bill went on to become chief pilot and manager of Forest Industries Flying Tankers (Martin Mars) out of Sproat Lake. Bill disliked the term Water Bomber intensely and preferred to call them Fire Bombers.

Barbara, Bill's wife, had married WWII hero John Spook in 1948. When he died in 1968, she returned to Vancouver Island where she met and married Bill.

