

## Donald Castle Ogborne [1931 - 2011]

Don started work at TAA in March 1947 as a 16 year old although was officially employed in November, 1946. He was the Perth office boy for about 2 years and then moved to Aircraft Dispatch at the Airport. He later worked in Cargo, Finance, as a booking clerk and in Reservations.

In the late 1960's, Don was appointed as passenger Sales Supervisor which later became known as Terminal Supervisor. During that time he also did a period in Overseas Travel. When TAA opened their Port Hedland office, he was acting Manager there for a short time and later returned several times to relieve the Manager when he was due to take annual leave. He returned to Perth Airport in the late 70's for about 3 months as acting Assistant Airport Manager.

Don retired in July 1987 after 40 years Service. He well remembered and often recounted the night the ANA DC-4 "Amana" crashed near York WA, shortly after take-off from Perth on 26 June 1950. Don was working at the airport when, after TAA's DC-4 "McDouall Stuart", had departed and they were finalising the usual paperwork, the phone rang. It was TAA's State Manager who told Don that he had just been advised by the press that one of the two airliners was missing (both the TAA and the ANA DC-4 Skymaster flights had left at 10pm), and did he know if it was TAA's? Neither Don nor the other staff had heard so they drove over to the then Department of Civil Aviation Operations Centre and found out it was the ANA aircraft. In the event, the TAA aircraft circled around and pinpointed the crash site. The TAA aircrew had spotted a fire in bush land between Chidlow and York and were able to report the location of the crash site.

During the 50's, TAA handled Qantas' flights to South Africa and Don often referred to the Lockheed Constellation aircraft that in due course were replaced by the Boeing 707's. Don was always very proud that he was instrumental in being involved with the first overseas airline flights to and from Perth.

Ian Sabey, TAA's first ever Publicity Manager, recorded in his book "Challenge in the Skies" (1979) that Bob Giles was the first TAA WA State Manager. Sabey went on to say "Of the early (WA) staff there remains D. C. Ogborne, aged forty-seven who was engaged by Giles as an office boy in November 1946. Today (i.e. 1979) Ogborne is Terminal Supervisor".

An example of Don's involvement with his staff appeared in the edition of "This Air Age" of July 1974. As was said so well by one of the Pentathalon team members recently, "Oggie was always able to mix with the troops as well as with management".

\*Perth Pentathalon champions photo is from the July 1974 edition of This Air Age.

Vale Don Ogborne! Those of us who knew him were privileged to know such a unique character and one who personified TAA.

Captain Doug Cornwall, [ret.]