



Later that day as they were returning Puff and Alf were making ready to go off when they spotted a B24 "Liberator", obviously in difficulties approaching the shore, it was getting lower and lower when finally about half a mile off it virtually flopped into the water. The pair of them hastened to get their boat away and make for the aircraft. As they arrived all the crew were standing on the wings and fuselage; and appeared not in the least worried, although pleased to get a dry ride to the shore. On looking back out to sea the aircraft was still afloat so a decision was made to return with two boats and effect a tow which with the sea calm was not difficult. With the tide still quite high managed to bring it in very close, there to rest on the beach as the tide ebbed.

The crash had been seen by the local coastguard; and its position given. The crew were collected and taken back to their base. The Liberator was later dismantled and taken away by a USAAF recovery crew.

With the end of hostilities on May 9th 1945 life slowly began to return to normal along the waters edge. But it was some time before the sands and beaches were cleaned of all obstacles, and one could feel safe once again to bathe and enjoy the freedom denied us for so long.

Those, whose livelihood was dependent on the harvest from the sea could once more "shove off" and enjoy their fishing grounds without the fear of enemy aircraft overhead. They were now in calmer waters.

The 1950s came and went, the catches became smaller and running cost vastly increased, continental trawlers often using illegal nets depleted the stocks so much many laid up their boats and successive governments stood by doing little to help. In fact they did the opposite; signing up with European Countries to cut our quotas virtually sounding the death knell for so many of our local families who had lived and worked at the waters edge. It is indeed an honour and a great pleasure to talk with those such as Alf, a man of so many memories.



*Alf and Puff with a fine Sturgeon.*