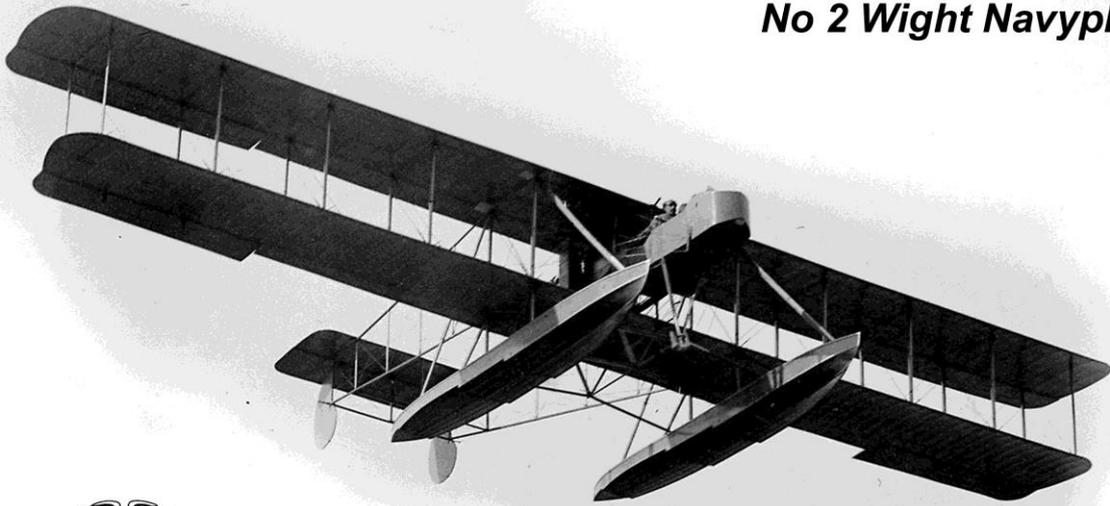


No 2 Wight Navyplane



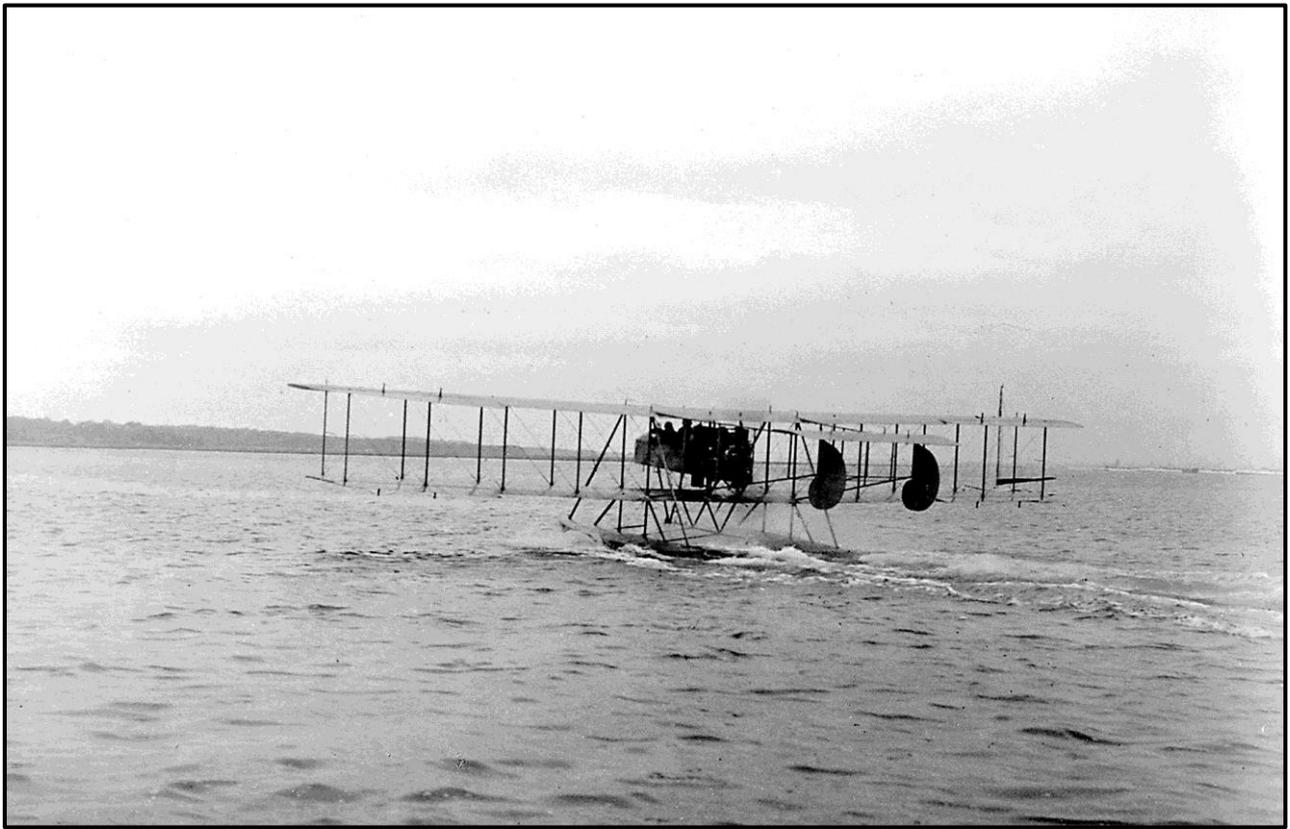
J. Samuel White & Co. Ltd.

Aircraft manufacture

In 1912 J.S White began constructing aircraft in the "Gridiron Shed" at East Cowes.



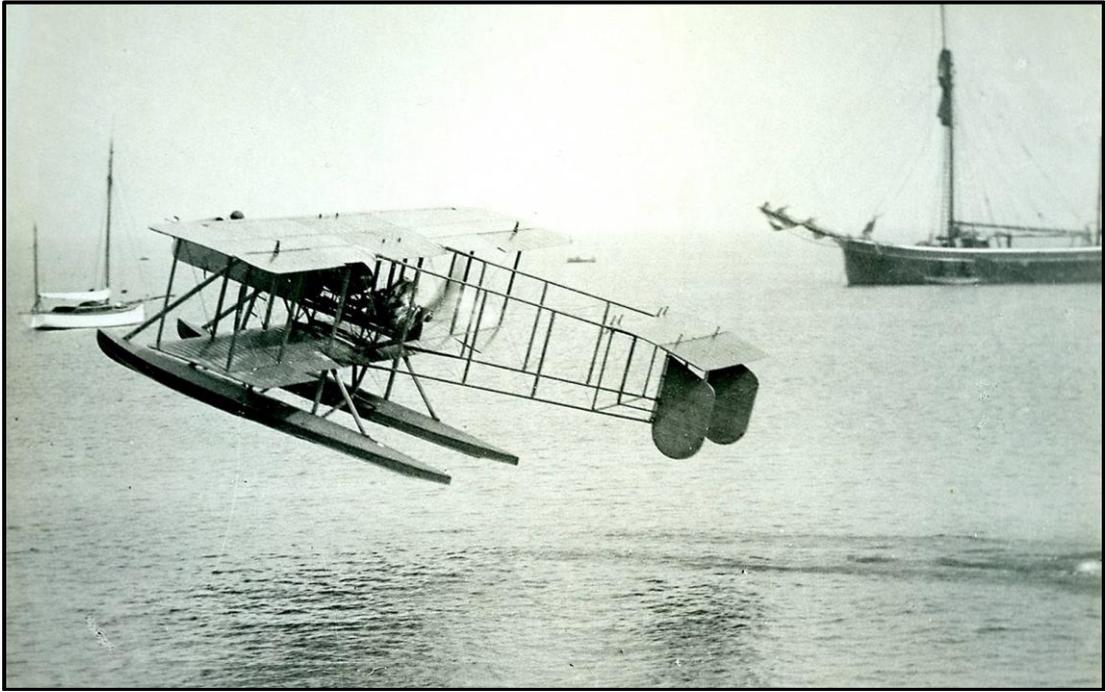
J.S White's Wight Enlarged Navyplane - 1914.
IWCMS.1993.999.1



J.S White's *Wight Enlarged Navyplane* - 1914.
IWCMS.1993.999.2

The highly versatile aircraft engineer *Howard T. Wright* was general manager and chief designer. The aircraft built were called "*Wight*" a clever combination of White and Wright promoting the location of their production.

The company moved its aircraft manufacturing facilities across the river to Cowes constructing a number of seaplanes and commencing the building of landplanes.

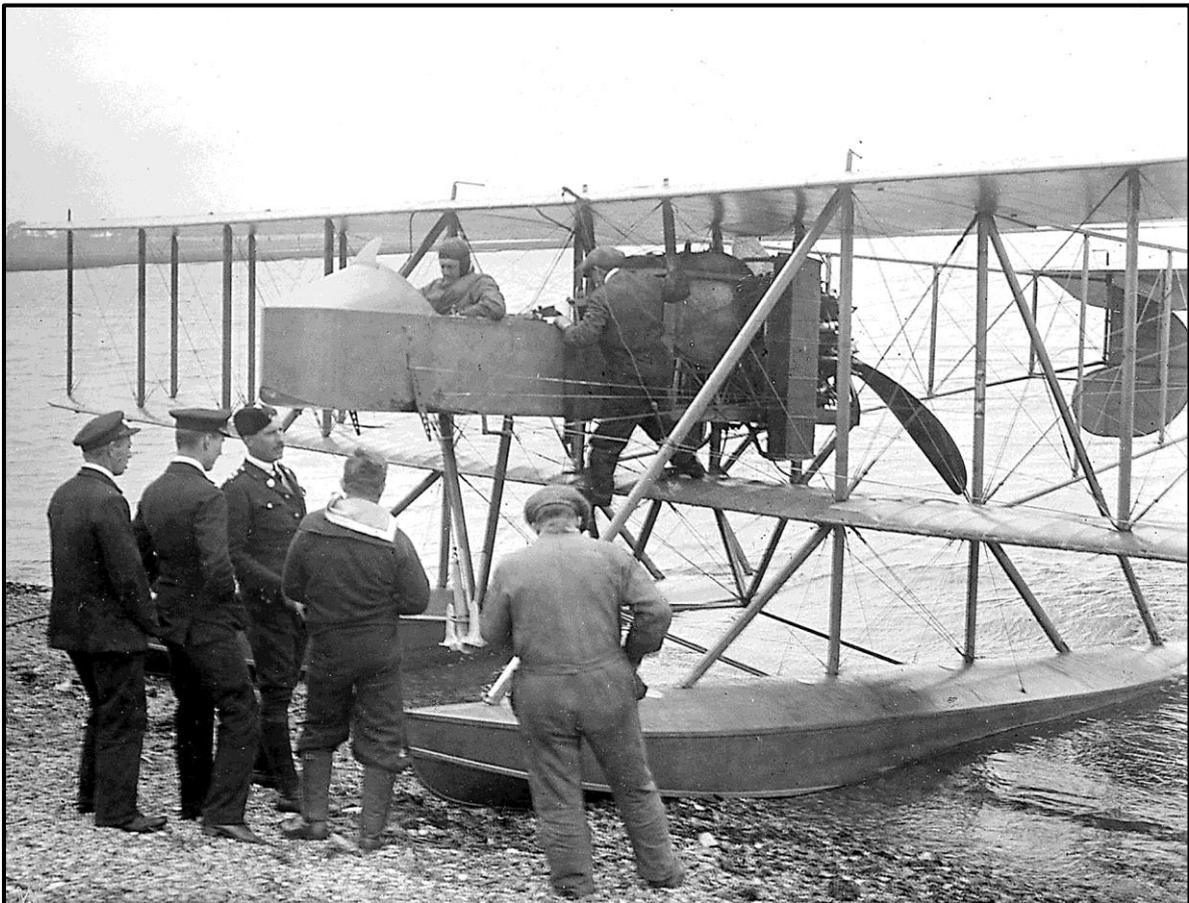


J.S White's *No 2 Wight Navyplane* - 1914.
IWCMS.1993.999.8

In 1916 White's purchased land which became Somerton Airfield. A factory was set up on the east side of the Cowes-Newport road.



JS White's *Wight Prototype Navyplane*, at the Olympia Air Show - 1913. COZMM.1993.999.17

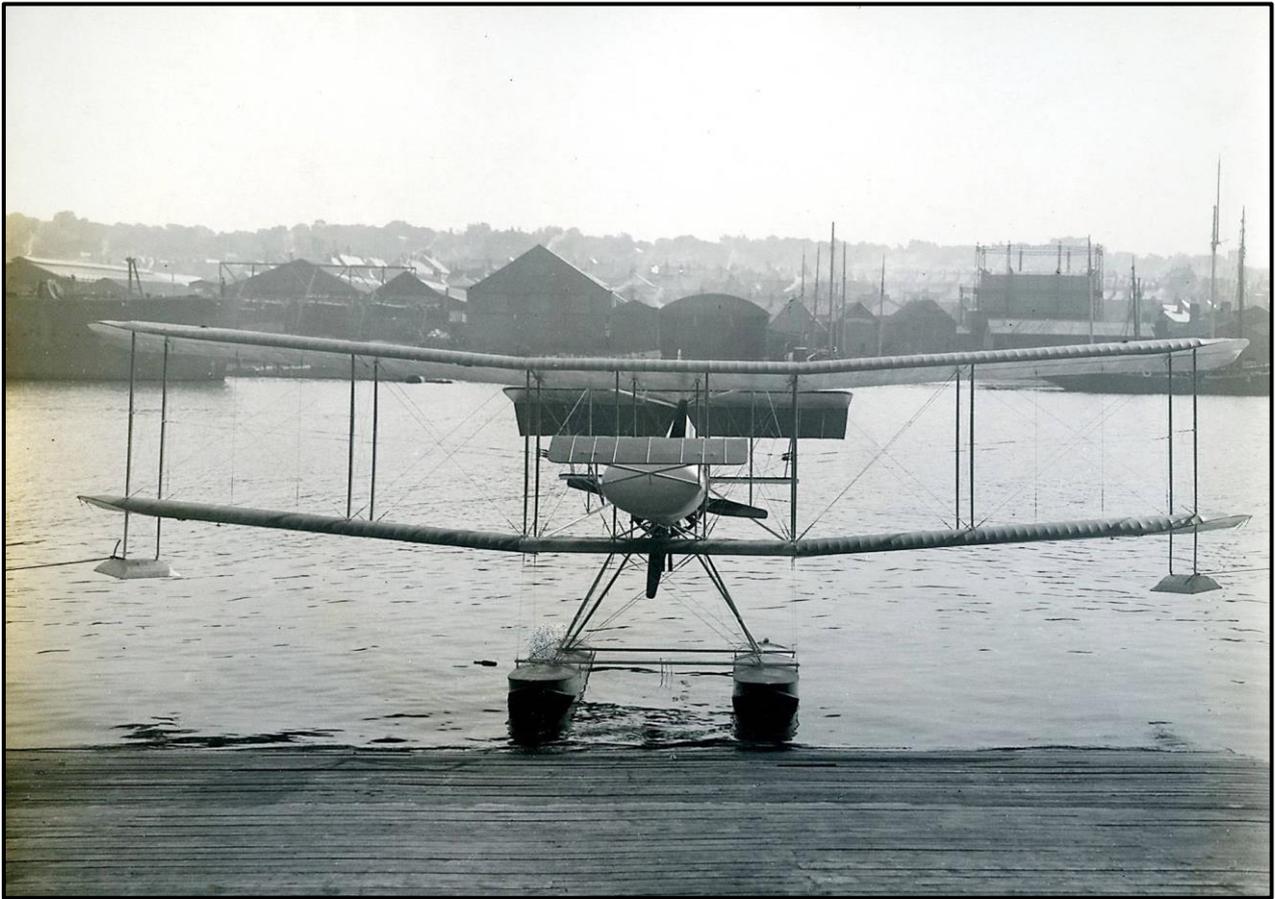


J.S White's Wight Navyplane No 128 at Calshot –
Pilot *Lt Thomas Scholes Creswell* - 4 June 1914.
IWCMS.1993.999.14



J.S White's Converted Seaplane prototype No 9846
on the water at Cowes. Watercolour (detail) artist -
George Gregory (1849-1938) 1918. IWCMS : 2011.19

On 18 August 1917, a Wight Converted Seaplane sank the German U-boat *UB-32* with a single 100lb bomb, the first submarine to be sunk in the English Channel by direct air action.



J.S White's Trainer Seaplane No 8321 – Circa 1915.
IWCMS.1993.999.20

Aircraft manufacture continued until the end of WW1. With the war ended, White's ceased aircraft production on 21 January 1919 and closed their aircraft department completely six months later.

