

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.A.F. Form A.50.  
(Feb. '33.)

No. of Sheet.....X 8.....

of (Unit or Formation) R.A.A.F. DETACHMENT, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Bombay.		presented to the Army Authorities at Bombay.	
	28.11.39.	0730 "HOBART" proceeded on patrol in the Bombay area.	
	1.12.39.	Aircraft was catapulted and carried out spotting for 4" Low angle and 6" sub-calibre firing.	
	2.12.39.	"HOBART" returned to Bombay, fuelled, and at 1100 proceeded to the Gulf of Aden escorting S.S. "AKBAR", returning to Bombay on 9th December, 1939.	
"	10.12.39	0215 "HOBART" sailed in company with H.M.S. "RANCHI" and "MOLOJA" escorting a convoy to the Gulf of Aden. Aircraft carried out A/S patrol for convoy leaving harbour, being later recovered at sea.	
Gulf of Aden.	15.12.39	"HOBART" parted company with convoy and proceeded to Colombo,	
Off Colombo.	20.12.39	0525 Aircraft catapulted at sea with signals and correspondence for Colombo, and subsequently carried out an A/S patrol ahead of ship.	
Colombo.	21.12.39	Aircraft carried out height finding exercise with "HOBART".	
	22.12.39	Operating from Colombo Harbour aircraft carried out W/T and Decoding exercise.	
	23.12.39	0250 "HOBART" sailed from Colombo and rendezvous with the French Cruiser "SUFFREN" in position 7° 06' N. 85° 48' E. Convoy consisting of French Ships "BOURGANVILLE", "YALON" and "SI-KIANG" under the escort of the French Sloop "SAVERGNAN-DE-BRAZZA" was sighted at 2336/25th December in position 6°04' N. 94° 20' E.	
	27.12.39	"HOBART" was detached from the convoy and proceeded to Colombo. Aircraft catapulted 0655 on 28th December, and proceeded to Lake Gaul in order to inspect the Seaplane advanced landing-place, rejoining HOBART in Colombo harbour at 1125.	
Colombo	30.12.39	0600 "HOBART" sailed from Colombo to rendezvous with H.M.S. "GLORIOUS" and "BULLDOG".	
	2.1.40	On passage to Gulf of Aden. 0730 Aircraft catapulted in order to carry out reconnaissance lasting two hours fifteen minutes, being subsequently recovered under way.	
	6.1.40	0235 "HOBART" parted company with "GLORIOUS" in position 12° 00' N. 51° 21' E. and pro-	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
		ceeded to Colombo.	
	10.1.40	"HOBART" entered Colombo. Aircraft was catapulted in order to carry out A/S patrol.	
Colombo	11.1.40	Aircraft proceeded on Navigational exercise to Trincomalee, fuelled and returned to Colombo at 1135.	
	15.1.40	"HOBART" sailed from Colombo on patrol.	
	18.1.40	0215 Aircraft catapulted in order to observe torpedo firing and to carry out A/S patrol being subsequently recovered after "HOBART" had entered Colombo Harbour.	
Colombo.	25.1.40	"HOBART" sailed in company with Force "I" for Trincomalee.	
	26.1.40	0415 Aircraft catapulted in order to spot for sub-calibre shoot and to carry out A/S patrol for ships entering Trincomalee harbour.	
Trincomalee	"	Aircraft carried out night landing practice.	
"	29.1.40	"HOBART" proceeded to sea for night firing exercise. Aircraft was hoisted out prior to departure of ship, and taking off at dusk flew out to sea in order to carry out night shadowing with "HOBART" later returning to Trincomalee and landing by lights shown from H.M.S. "EAGLE".	de-
"	31.1.40	Aircraft carried out triangular navigation exercise.	
	"	"HOBART" in company with "EAGLE" proceeded to sea and rendezvoused with "RAMILLES", "SUSSEX" and Australian Convoy U.S.1, on passage to Aden.	
	7.2.40	"HOBART" parted company with the convoy and steamed ahead for Aden, catapulting aircraft at 0745 with signals and correspondence for Aden.	
Aden	8.2.40	0145 "HOBART" sailed from Aden to rendezvous with group one of the convoy, escorting it up the Red Sea, returning to Aden on 13th February, 1940.	
"	17.2.40	"HOBART" sailed to rendezvous with H.T. "ANDES", arriving Colombo 22nd February. Aircraft catapulted at 0917 in order to carry out A/S patrol, and to exercise with H.M. Submarine "OLYMPUS".	
Colombo	24.2.40	Aircraft proceeded from Colombo to Trincomalee in order to carry out forty hourly inspection, returning to Colombo on 1st March, 1940.	

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No. of Sheet.....3.....

of (Unit or Formation) R.A.A.F. DETACHMENT, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Colombo	3.3.40	"HOBART" sailed to rendezvous with two gun-boats and to escort them to Colombo.	
At Sea	7.3.40	Aircraft was catapulted in order to carry out reconnaissance and high level bombing against splash target towed by "HOBART", and subsequently landing by the "slick" method and being recovered under way.	
"	8.3.40	"HOBART" parted company with Minesweepers and proceeded to Trincomalee, arriving on 9th March, 1940. Aircraft was catapulted prior to "HOBART" entering Harbour in order to carry out A/S patrol.	
Trincomalee	11.3.40	"HOBART" proceeded to Sea in order to carry out 6" sub-calibre firing, returning to harbour on completion. Aircraft was catapulted in order to spot for this exercise.	
	12.3.40	"HOBART" proceeded to sea in company with "EAGLE" arriving Colombo 16th March, 1940.	
Colombo	17.3.40	Flight Lieutenant T.H. Davies embarked in H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" and proceeded to sea in order to observe the "slick" method of landing in rough water, returning to "HOBART" in Colombo on 18th March, 1940.	
		<u>NOTE.</u> The "Slick" method of landing is employed to enable aircraft to alight in rough water, and is produced by the ship commencing on a course 30° degrees to port of the wind and turning to starboard through 70°, thereby leaving a strip of moderately calm water or lee in which the aircraft touches down.	
"	19.3.40	Aircraft was flown to Rathmalana Aerodrome and was camouflaged in accordance with Admiralty instructions, returning to "HOBART" on completion.	
"	25.3.40	"HOBART" sailed towards Nancowrie Island in order to rendezvous with Second M/S Flotilla.	
At Sea	21.3.40	Aircraft was catapulted in order to practice slick landing and was recovered under way.	
"	22.3.40	Aircraft catapulted in order to locate Minesweepers.	
"	23.3.40	0345 Aircraft catapulted in order to observe torpedo firing, being subsequently recovered at sea. 1400 "HOBART" entered harbour. (Colombo).	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Colombo	27.3.40	"HOBART" sailed from Colombo for Trincomalee.	
At Sea	29.3.40	0540 Aircraft was catapulted for reconnaissance and later recovered at sea.	
		0730 "HOBART" entered Trincomalee Harbour.	
Trincomalee	1.4.40	Aircraft carried Height-finding and navigation exercises. Night Flying was later carried out with H.M.S. "KENT".	
"	2.4.40	Aircraft carried out triangular navigation exercise.	
	4.4.40	"HOBART" in company with "KENT" sailed for Colombo arriving 5th April, 1940.	
Colombo.	13.4.40	"HOBART" sailed for Aden.	
	14.4.40	Danish Ship "AFRIKA" intercepted, an armed guard from "HOBART" being placed onboard to take her to Colombo. "HOBART" proceeded to Aden arriving 18th April, 1940.	
Aden	25.4.40	"HOBART" sailed on a courtesy visit to the Red Sea ports of Kamaran, Mocha and Hodeida. Governors and Arab Chieftain's of these places were entertained onboard, and gifts of cattle, sheep etc. were received. Gifts of tinned fruit etc., were made by the Ship.	
	29.4.40	"HOBART" returned to Aden.	
Aden	1.5.40	"HOBART" sailed, and after exercises proceeded to Djibouti (French Somaliland) arriving 2nd May, 1940. 1710 2nd May, 1940 "HOBART" sailed for Berbera (British Somaliland) arriving 0420, 3rd May, 1940. Aircraft was hoisted out in harbour and carried out a reconnaissance to the East of Berbera. 1335 "HOBART" proceeded to Aden, arriving 4th May.	
Aden	12.5.40	Convoy U.S.2 (2nd Australian troop convoy) arrived escorted by H.M.S. "RAMILLES". 0930 "HOBART" weighed and proceeded to sea to form part of the escort of the convoy, until joined by the French Cruiser "SUFFREN" after which "HOBART" returned to Aden.	
Aden and Berbera	14.5.40	"HOBART" proceeded to Berbera in order to cover and superintend disembarkation of 1st Battalion Northern Rhodesian Regiment from S.S. "KARANJA". Aircraft carried out A/S patrol on 15th and 16th May. 17	
	17.5.40	"HOBART" returned to Aden.	
Aden	20.5.40	"HOBART" sailed for Perim (entrance to Red Sea) .	
	24.5.40	Arrived Port Sudan.	

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of (Unit or Formation) R.A.A.F. DETACHMENT, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Port Sudan	26.5.40	Sailed for Perim to rendezvous with H.M.S. "LIVERPOOL".	
Perim	1.6.40	On patrol off Perim and Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb.	
	4.6.40	"HOBART" returned to Aden.	
Aden	6.6.40	Walrus L2721 now due for 120 hourly inspection was exchanged for Walrus L2321, the latter aircraft having been erected at R.A.F. Station, Khormaksar.	
	11.6.40	"HOBART" weighed and proceeded into the Red Sea returning to Aden on 12th June.	
	13.6.40	"HOBART" weighed and proceeded to Red Sea.	
	19.6.40	0504 Aircraft catapulted in position 15° 33' N. 41° 26' E. in order to carry out bombing attack at Italian W/T Station on Centre Peak Island. Attack was carried out at 0604 Four 112 lb. bombs were dropped on W/T huts, one being destroyed and the other damaged Four 20 lb. bombs were dropped on a concrete pier, but although direct hits were obtained little damage was observed. Dive bombing was employed for each attack. On completion aircraft proceeded to Kamaran Island fuelled and returned to Aden.	
Aden	20.6.40	Aircraft carried out dawn A/S patrol and a further A/S patrol at 1050 for "HOBART" entering harbour. After fuelling and embarking aircraft ship proceeded to Perim.	
Gulf of Aden	22.6.40	Aircraft was catapulted in order to carry out reconnaissance of the coast from Ras al Bir to the Brothers, being later recovered at sea.	
	23.6.40	0327 On receipt of Submarine report, South of Perim aircraft was catapulted but was shortly recalled when a further signal was received reporting the destruction of the submarine. "HOBART" returned to Aden.	
		On all occasions that "HOBART" had fired on hostile aircraft damage had been sustained to the Ship's Walrus due to the blast from the four inch guns. Consequently arrangements were now made for the aircraft to be disembarked and to remain on the slipway at Obstruction Pier whenever "HOBART" should be in Aden, being re-embarked when ship proceeded to sea.	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Aden	24th- 30.6.40	Dawn A/S patrols were carried out by "HOBART'S" aircraft of the searched Channel of Aden on alternate days from 24th June until 30th June.	
"	30.6.40	"HOBART" with second Punjab Regiment embarked sailed for Berbera.	
Berbera	1.7.40	"HOBART" arrived Berbera, disembarked troops and returned to Aden 2nd July.	
Aden	5.7.40	"HOBART" proceeded to patrol Perim returning to Aden 7th July, 1940.	
"	9.7.40	Aircraft proceeded from Aden to Berbera in order to carry out A/S patrols prior to the arrival of "HOBART".	
Berbera	10.7.40	Aircraft carried out dawn A/S patrol from Berbera. Further A/S patrol was carried out at 0945. "HOBART" arrived at 1020 and proceeded to disembark troops.	
"	13.7.40	Aircraft carried out A/S patrol Berbera to Siyara.	
"	14.7.40	"HOBART" weighed and proceeded to Aden, arriving a.m. 15th July, 1940.	
Aden	15.7.40	Aircraft disembarked to Obstruction Pier Slipway. 1235 Aircraft took off and carried out search for a Gloucester Gladiator reported to have crashed off Aden. Pilot of crashed aircraft was rescued by H.M.S. "MOONSTONE".	
"	19.7.40	Aircraft carried out marking for H.A. firing by H.M.S. "SHOREHAM"	
"	21.7.40	"HOBART" embarked aircraft and sailed for the Red Sea. 1325 "HOBART" fired on Italian aircraft, bombs were dropped but no hits were registered.	
At Sea	22.7.40	Aircraft was catapulted in order to carry out an A/S patrol ahead of "HOBART" entering Aden. 2107 sailed to provide support for Perim patrol.	
"	26.7.40	Aircraft was catapulted to carry out A/S patrol ahead of "HOBART" entering Aden.	
Aden	28.7.40	Sergeant C.W.P. Selvey discharged to R.A.F. Hospital, Aden, with chronic laryngitis.	
"	31.7.40	"HOBART" sailed for Berbera in order to provide protection for H.T "VARSOVA".	
Berbera	1.8.40	"HOBART" arrived Berbera. 1040 Aircraft carried out a reconnaissance of the Berbera-Zeila Road.	
"	6.8.40	"HOBART" commenced evacuating native refugees. 0930 In order to investigate submarine report aircraft carried out patrol Berbera - Siyara.	
"	8.8.40	0317. Three CR42 Fighters machine-gunned Berbera aerodrome destroying one Gladiator and	

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Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
		damaging another. 0345 it was thought that these aircraft would proceed to Zeila and consequently the aircraft was catapulted with the intention of bombing them while engaged in refuelling. No aircraft were observed on the ground at Zeila and so two 112 lb. G.P. bombs were released from 800 feet falling forty yards short of the Residency. The Aircraft then made three circuits of the town at a height of 250 feet machine-gunning the Residency and ground machine-gun posts. Aircraft returned to "HOBART" at 0700.	
Berbera	10.8.40	"HOBART" weighed and proceeded to Aden arriving 11th August.	
Aden	14.8.40	"HOBART" proceeded to Berbera in order to cover the evacuation of British Somaliland.	
Berbera	18.8.40	Aircraft carried out reconnaissance of the plain surrounding Berbera.	
"	19.8.40	Evacuation completed. "HOBART" bombarded Berbera and returned to Aden.	
Aden	19.8.40	Sergeant C.W.P. Selvey reported onboard having been discharged from R.A.H. Hospital, Aden.	
	22.8.40	The aircraft which was tied down on Obstruction Pier broke adrift in an unusually high wind resulting in damage being sustained to the Port and Starboard wingtips and starboard wing-tip float. As it could not be flown the wings were folded and the aircraft towed to R.A.F. Station Khormaksar, by means of a tractor, where repairs were effected.	
"	30.8.40	Sergeant A.J. Johnston discharged to R.A.F. Hospital, Aden, with dysentery.	
	30.8.40	Aircraft carried out A/S patrol for H.M.S. "ROYAL SOVEREIGN" leaving Aden.	
	31.8.40	Aircraft was re-embarked in "HOBART" after which the ship weighed and proceeded up the Red Sea with convoy R.S.5.	
Red Sea	1.9.40	Escorting convoy R.S.5.	
	3.9.40	"HOBART" left North-bound convoy and took over escort of South-bound convoy B.S. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	
	5.9.40	Convoy attacked five times by Italian bombers. No hits were registered, but the blast from HOBART'S guns (H.A.) was found to have damaged the Walrus Aircraft while on the Catapult, resulting in fourteen ribs in the mainplanes, one in the tail-plane and all	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
		in the rudder being broken.	
Aden	7.9.40	<p>"HOBART" returned to Aden. The Aircraft was lightened and flown to R.A.F. Station, Khormaksar, in order to effect repairs. Both upper mainplanes and rudder were renewed and broken ribs in tailplane and lower mainplanes were replaced.</p> <p>Owing to the damage continually being caused to the Aircraft from the blast of the Ship's H.A. Guns, permission was obtained from the Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea, to land the aircraft on each occasion that "HOBART" proceeded up the Red Sea. Aircraft and crew therefore remained disembarked at Khormaksar.</p>	
"	27.9.40	Flight Lieutenant T.H. Davies was placed in command of a F.I.A. Repair Unit, recently formed at R.A.F. Station, Khormaksar.	
"	28.9.40	Operating from Aden aircraft carried out a reconnaissance of the Gulf of Aden.	
	1st-12th 10.40	Operating from Khormaksar aircraft carried out six reconnaissance flights of the Gulf of Aden, operating under the orders of Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea.	
	12.10.40	Aircraft re-embarked "HOBART".	
	13.10.40	"HOBART" sailed for Colombo in order to dock and refit, arriving 17th October, 1940.	
Colombo.	19.10.40	Aircraft flew from Colombo to R.A.F. Station, Trincomalee, in order to carry out forty hourly inspection. Crew returned to Colombo by train.	
	21.10.40	Aircraft crew proceeded to Royal Naval Camp, Diyatalawa, Ceylon, for ten days camp. ree	
	31.10.40	Crew returned to Colombo.	
Colombo.	2.11.40	Aircraft crew proceeded by rail to Trincomalee.	
Trincomalee	3.11.40	Aircraft carried out Triangular navigation exercise.	
"	4.11.40	Aircraft carried out Navigation and bombing exercise.	
	5.11.40	Crew returned by rail to Colombo.	
Colombo	9.11.40	Sergeant C.W.P. Selvey, being medically unfit for service afloat was discharged to S.S. "MAURETANIA" for passage to Australia.	
	14.11.40	Aircraft crew proceeded by rail to Trincomalee.	
Trincomalee	17.11.40	Aircraft proceeded to Colombo and re-embarked "HOBART".	

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No. of Sheet.....6.....

of (Unit or Formation) R.A.A.F. DETACHMENT, H.M.L.A.S. "HOBART".

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Colombo	19.11.40	"HOBART" proceeded to sea for sub-calibre firing. Aircraft was catapulted to carry out spotting. 1630 "HOBART" returned to harbour.	
	20.11.40	"HOBART" proceeded to sea and carried out six-inch full calibre firing. Aircraft was catapulted to carry out spotting. After recovering aircraft "HOBART" proceeded to Aden.	
	24.11.40	"HOBART" arrived Aden. Aircraft disembarked to Khormaksar.	
Aden	1st-11th 12.40	Aircraft and crew at R.A.F. Station Khormaksar. Maintenance work was carried out on Aircraft.	
	12.12.40	"HOBART" returned to Aden, embarked aircraft, and proceeded to Colombo.	
En route to Colombo	16.12.40	In position 280° Minikoi Island 85 miles aircraft was catapulted in order to observe torpedo firing and carry out height-finding exercise for H.A. guns.	
(Time - Zone -5½)	17.12.40	At 0106 in position 7° 21' N. 76° 07' E. a report was received of an armed raider having attacked a merchant vessel in latitude 00° 02' N. and probably 67° 00' E. "HOBART" received instructions to proceed with despatch to position 00° 70° 00' E. At 1200 in position 4° 42' N. 73° 11' E. aircraft was catapulted with instructions to search the atolls of Ari, South Male, Felidu, Nilandu, Mulaaka and Kolumadula. Aircraft returned at 1510 with nothing to report. It was again catapulted one hour later and was recovered at 1810.	
	18.12.40	Aircraft carried out three reconnaissance flights each of approximately three hours duration. One British Ship S.S. "BARON CAWDOR" was sighted, otherwise nothing to report.	
	19.12.40	Aircraft carried out three reconnaissance flights each of approximately three hours duration. 1150 "HOBART" arrived Addu Atoll (Maldives Islands) and fuelled from R.F.A. "APPLE LEAF"	
	20.12.40	Flying was not carried out a.m. due to aircraft undergoing 20 hourly inspection. 1255 aircraft carried out a reconnaissance of three hours duration from position 00° 37' N. 78° 08' E.	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
At Sea	21.12.40	Aircraft carried out reconnaissance flights at 0700 from position 01° 37' N. 83° 13' E. and at 1328 from position 00° 13' N. 84° 57' E. both flights of three hours duration.	
(Time Zone - 6)	22.12.40	Aircraft carried out reconnaissance flight of three hours duration commencing at 0800 in position 03° 48' S. 88° 20' E.	
Fremantle (Time Zone - 8)	28.12.40	1030 "HOBART" arrived Fremantle approximately fifteen months after date of leaving Sydney, Walrus L2321 which had been issued on loan from the F.A.A. was landed at R.A.A.F. Station Pearce for transport by H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" to Colombo. Instructions for the return of the aircraft had previously been received in C. in C. East Indies Signal 0543/13th June, 1940. (Copy attached.) 1800 "HOBART" sailed from Sydney.	
At Sea.	31.12.40	On passage from Fremantle to Sydney.	
	3.1.41	"HOBART" arrived Sydney.	
	4.1.41.	This detachment proceeded on leave as follows: F/L T.H. Davies 14 days, F/Sgt. J.S. Burge 14 days, Sgt. C.L. Moore 28 days, Sgt. A.J. Johnston 28 days L.A.C. F. Howe 28 days. With the exception of F/Sgt. Burge who was required to remain onboard for instruction to new members of the crew, all others were instructed to report to R.A.A.F. Station, Rathmines on completion of their leave.	
Sydney.	20.1.41	Seagull A2-18 was flown from Rathmines to Sydney and embarked in "HOBART". The new crew consisting of Cpl. H. Sparks, L.A.C. P. Will, L.A.C. C.A. Nott, L.A.C. R.A. Bradshaw, and L.A.C. V.E. Wiseman were also embarked.	
	22.1.41.	Aircraft carried out height-finding exercise with "HOBART".	
Auckland	23.1.41	1400 (Zone - 10) "HOBART" sailed for Auckland escorting H.T. "Aorangi" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM"	
	27.1.41	1205 (Zone - 12) Aircraft was catapulted in position 36° 27' S. 175° 00' E. and proceeded to R.N.Z.A.F. Station, Auckland in order to swing compasses, returning to "HOBART" in Auckland harbour at 1750	
Wellington	29.1.41	Sailed from Auckland.	
	30.1.41	Arrived Wellington.	
	31.1.41	At Wellington.	