

SECRET

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

of (Unit or Formation) No. 9 Squadron (H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA".)

No. of Sheet 2

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
COLOMBO	4/7/41	Left harbour and proceeded to the vicinity of the MADRAS SWEEP CHANNEL to escort H.T. "ELLENCA" to a position 10° North 92° 30' East.	
At Sea	9/7/41	Turned over escort duties to H.M.S. "DANAÉ", then set course for FREMANTLE.	
" "	10/7/41	Instructions received to return to COLOMBO.	
COLOMBO	12/7/41	Arrived at COLOMBO.	
" "	13/7/41	Left COLOMBO for FREMANTLE.	
FREMANTLE	20/7/41	Arrived at FREMANTLE.	
" "	21/7/41	Left FREMANTLE escorting M.V. "DUNTROON".	
AT SEA	25/7/41	Left M.V. "DUNTROON" in vicinity of GULF OF ST. VINCENT and proceeded to MELBOURNE.	
MELBOURNE	26/7/41	Arrived PORT MELBOURNE.	
	31/7/41	Left PORT MELBOURNE for FREMANTLE in company with convoy US. 11B.	
		O.C. R.A.A.F. Detachment H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - F/O D.J. MURCHISON (818).	
		<i>A. Bannely</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 9 Squadron, R.A.A.F. RATHMINES, N.S.W.	

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No. of Sheet 3

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
AT SEA	6/8/41	Aircraft catapulted to carry out practise high level bombing off ROTTNEST ISLAND and on completion of exercise carried on to PEARCE to pick up stores. Returned and recovered by ship in FREMANTLE harbour.	
	8/8/41	Carried on with convoy US 11B to SINGAPORE.	
SINGAPORE	14/8/41	Arrived at SINGAPORE.	
	18/8/41	Carried out high level and dive bombing exercise in vicinity of ship which was berthed at Naval Anchorage. The performance of Brewster Buffalo Aircraft which were flying today appeared to be very satisfactory.	
	20/8/41	Left SINGAPORE.	
FREMANTLE	26/8/41	Arrived at FREMANTLE.	
		O.C. R.A.A.F. Detachment H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - F/O D.J. MURCHISON (818).	
		<i>D. J. Murchison</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 9 Squadron, R.A.A.F. RATHMINES, N.S.W.	

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No. of Sheet 4

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
FREMANTLE	8/9/41	Ship left FREMANTLE and Aircraft catapulted to spot for 8" shoot. Aircraft damaged on recovery, port upper and lower mainplanes damaged and hull holed - heavy sea and strong wind. Ship returned to FREMANTLE to disembark aircraft and R.A.A.F. Detachment. repairs carried out with assistance from workshops, R.A.A.F. Station, PEARCE.	
FREMANTLE	8/9/41	H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" returned and aircraft and crew re-embarked after flight test.	
	9/9/41	Left FREMANTLE in company with convoy US 12A for TRINCOMALEE.	
TRINCOMALEE	15/9/41	Arrived TRINCOMALEE and a mosaic of the harbour was taken but gave unsatisfactory results owing to defective film being used which had been supplied by F.A.A. SECTION, CHINA BAY.	
	16/9/41	Left TRINCOMALEE	
COLOMBO	17/9/41	Arrived at COLOMBO	
	19/9/41	Left COLOMBO. Spotting for 4" inch shoot on sleeve target off coast of CEYLON was carried out.	
FREMANTLE	27/9/41	Arrived at FREMANTLE and left seven hours later for SYDNEY. O.C. R.A.A.F. Detachment H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - F/O D.J. MURCHISON (818).	
		<i>D. Bonnelly</i> Wing Commander, Commanding, NO. 9 Squadron, R.A.A.F. RATHERGLEN, N.S.W.	

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 9 Squadron, (H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA"). No. of Sheet 5

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	1941		
SYDNEY	OCTOBER 3	from ship Aircraft catapulted/off SYDNEY HEADS and bombing practise carried out. On completion aircraft recovered in SYDNEY HARBOUR.	
	6	Ship left SYDNEY on patrol in TASMAN SEA.	
	8	Aircraft catapulted and search carried out.	
SYDNEY	10	Returned to SYDNEY.	
	16	Left SYDNEY and carried out 4 inch and 8 inch sub calibre firings. Aircraft damaged by 4 inch gun fire blast, 18 mainplane ribs broken. Aircraft in stowed position on catapult with wings spread. Emergency repairs effected at sea and ship proceeded to AUCKLAND. Trailing S.S. "MARTIOSA".	
AUCKLAND	19	Arrived AUCKLAND.	
	21	Left for SYDNEY and a floating mine was sighted on 23rd. OCTOBER, and sunk by gun fire.	
SYDNEY	25	Arrived SYDNEY. WALRUS L2322 taxied to ROSE BAY and exchanged for WALRUS L2293 which was flown back to the ship.	
	27	Height finding exercise carried out with H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and later aircraft was catapulted to carry out 4 inch spotting for H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" outside SYDNEY HEADS.	
	29	Further 4 inch spotting carried out for H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" outside SYDNEY HEADS.	
	30	Two flights were arranged to afford Midshipmen a little air experience and incorporated in the first flight was an attack on H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" to provide practise for the close range armament.	
	31	Aircraft was catapulted and flown to RATHMINES to return unserviceable parachutes. returned to ship.	
		C.O. DETACHMENT F/O D.V. BURCHISON (813)	
		<i>D. G. Gandy</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 9 Squadron, RATHMINES. N.S.W.	

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No. of Sheet 7

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
SYDNEY	0.12.41	Aircraft and crew re-embarked.	
	1.12.41	H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" proceeded to sea and aircraft catapulted to carry out 8' spotting, on completion, returned to ROSE BAY while ship completed night firing.	
	2.12.41	Took off from ROSE BAY and after completion of 4' spotting, aircraft was recovered in harbour. It proceeded to sea with H.M.A.S. "PERTH" to cover shipping in TASMAN Sea.	
At Sea	13.12.41	Aircraft catapulted for anti-submarine patrol.	
"	14.12.41	Altered course for BRISBANE.	
BRISBANE	16.12.41	Arrived BRISBANE, hoisted the flag of Rear-Admiral I.G. GRACE C.B. R.N. and proceeded to sea with H.M.A.S. "PERTH" to cover convoy in the direction of NEW CALEDONIA.	
At Sea	17.12.41	Aircraft catapulted to carry out search for U.S.S. "PETASCO" and convoy 400Z. Aircraft damaged on recovery by gross line after forced landing, accident report was forwarded to RATHMINES, and repairs were effected on board.	
At Sea	19.12.41	Contacted convoy and proceeded for BRISBANE.	
"	21.12.41	Aircraft catapulted and set course for BRISBANE, landed and buoyed in river.	
BRISBANE	22.12.41	Ship arrived at MORTON BAY and aircraft recovered. It aircraft again catapulted to pick up mail and on recovery H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" proceeded for SYDNEY. Seagull A2-16 Flying Officer WEBBER, and crew flown RATHMINES to BRISBANE to replace U/S Seagull A2-22 attached to H.M.A.S. "PERTH". A2-22 Flying Officer WEBBER, LACs. FARFLO, SMITH, and BAIN embarked for passage only.	
At Sea	24.12.41	Aircraft catapulted for anti-submarine patrol, on completion landed at ROSE BAY and on arrival of H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" A2-16 was flown to RATHMINES for a complete overhaul.	
SYDNEY	25.12.41	Seagull A2-16, Flying Officer WEBBER, Cpl. SKEWEN, LAC. FARFLO embarked.	
"	26.12.41	Proceeded for MONT KORESEV escorting convoy ZK5.	
	31.12.41	A2-16 Flying Officer MURCHISON catapulted for anti-submarine patrol.	
		O.C. Detachment Flying Officer D.J. MURCHISON	
			Wing Commander,
			Commanding No. 9 Squadron,
			RATHMINES N.S.W.

13/1/52