

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

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".	
	23.1.41	1400 (Zone - 10) "HOBART" sailed for Auckland escorting H.T. "Aorangi" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM"	
Auckland	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	
	29.1.41	Sailed from Auckland.	
Wellington	30.1.41	Arrived Wellington.	
	31.1.41	At Wellington.	

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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.
Wellington.	1.2.41	"HOBART" sailed from Wellington for Sydney escorting H.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM"	
Sydney.	4.2.21	0620 - "HOBART" arrived Sydney. 1230 - Proceeded with Convoy U.S.10. on passage to Fremantle.	
Fremantle.	10.2.41	"HOBART" arrived Fremantle.	
	11.2.41	"HOBART" sailed for Sydney via Bass Strait.	
Sydney.	16.2.41	0900 - (Zone - 10) Aircraft was catapulted off Sydney and carried out exercises in Gunnery, A/S Bombing and Navigation, returning to "HOBART" in Sydney harbour at 1145.	
	17.2.41	1500 - "HOBART" proceeded in company with "ACHILLES" for exercises off Port Jackson. Aircraft was catapulted in order to spot sub-calibre firing and to observe Torpedo firing, subsequently returning to "HOBART" in Port Jackson at 2355.	
	18.2.41	0840 - "HOBART" proceeded in company with "ACHILLES" for exercises off Port Jackson. Aircraft was catapulted in order to spot for 6" full calibre and to mark H.A. Firing. A/S practice bombing was carried out against a splash target towed by "HOBART". Aircraft later returned to "HOBART" in Farm Cove.	
	22.2.41	1100 - "HOBART" proceeded in company with H.T. "AWATEA" on passage to Auckland.	
Auckland.	25.2.41	1305 - (Zone - 12) "HOBART" arrived Auckland. 1745 - sailed for Melbourne.	
At Sea	28.2.41	On passage to Melbourne.	
Melbourne.	1.3.41	"HOBART" arrived Melbourne, fuelled, and sailed in company with "SYDNEY" for Fremantle.	
Fremantle.	5.3.41	"HOBART" and "SYDNEY" arrived Fremantle.	
	6.3.41	Operating from Fremantle Aircraft carried out triangular Navigation exercises.	
	7.3.41	1600 - (Zone - 8) "HOBART" and "SYDNEY" sailed from Fremantle and carried out 6" sub-calibre firing. Aircraft of both ships were catapulted in order to carry out spotting being subsequently recovered at sea at 1910. On completion of exercises ships proceeded to rendezvous with "AUSTRALIA" in the Indian Ocean.	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
At sea. (Indian Ocean)	11.3.41	"HOBART" and "SYDNEY" rendezvoused with "AUSTRALIA", "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" and "MAURETANIA" Convoy proceeded towards Fremantle.	
	12.3.41	"HOBART'S" aircraft carried out a reconnaissance on a constant bearing of 040 degrees and approximately 3 hours duration. Owing to the rough state of the sea involving risk of damage to aircraft, further flying was cancelled.	
Off Fremantle	15.3.41	"HOBART" and "SYDNEY" carried out 6" full calibre firings. Aircraft of both ships were catapulted in order to carry out spotting, being later recovered in harbour. The attached copy of signal from Naval Officer in Charge, Sydney, (0400/15th March) was received.	
Fremantle.	17.3.41	"HOBART", "SYDNEY" and "AUSTRALIA" proceeded to Melbourne arriving 22/3/41.	
Melbourne.	23.3.41	"HOBART" and "SYDNEY" departed Melbourne and proceeded to Sydney arriving 24/3/41.	
Sydney.	24/3/41	"HOBART'S" aircraft was catapulted off Port Jackson and proceeded to Rose Bay for maintenance. "HOBART" entered Cockatoo Dock.	
	27/3/41	Ship undocked and reembarked aircraft. During this docking period the aircraft crew were quartered at Air Force House in order to be within short travelling distance of the aircraft at Rose Bay.	
	28/3/41	The attached copy of signal 0014/28th March was made from "HOBART" to Rathmines.	
	2/4/41	Pilot Officer A.V. McDonough embarked "HOBART" in order to relieve Flight Lieutenant T.H. Davies, the latter to remain embarked until the Captain was satisfied that Pilot Officer McDonough was capable.	
	3.4.41	Aircraft carried out Heightfinding exercise.	
	4/4/41	"HOBART" in company with "AUSTRALIA" proceeded on passage to Wellington.	
Off Wellington.	6/4/41	At 1330K (Zone - 12) in Cook Strait aircraft was catapulted for instruction to Pilot Officer McDonough. "AUSTRALIA'S" aircraft, Seagull A2-24, was also catapulted at 1336, but owing to the failure of the catapult, the aircraft crashed resulting in the death of the Pilot, Lieutenant J.J. Hoath, R.N.	

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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.
Off Wellington.	6/4/41	"HOBART'S" AIRCRAFT landed on the water near the crashed aircraft and was able to rescue the observer and telegraphist who had the observer and telegraphist received minor injuries. The aircraft sank quickly, presenting no opportunity for salvage. 1800 - Ships arrived Wellington.	
Wellington	7/4/41	"HOBART" and "AUSTRALIA" escorting "MAURETANIA" and "NIEUW AMSTERDAM" left Wellington for Sydney.	
Sydney.	9/4/41	Ships arrived Sydney. Aircraft was catapulted in Sydney harbour for instruction to P/O McDonough.	
	10/4/41	Seagull A2-18 was transferred to "AUSTRALIA". Replacement aircraft for "HOBART" Seagull A2-9, was flown from Rathmines to Rose Bay. This aircraft had installed a Pegasus II M II Engine which was replaced at Rose Bay by "HOBART'S" crew for Pegasus VI. Engine received from No. 2 supply depot, Waterloo.	
	11/4/41	1900 - (Zone - 10) Seagull A2-9 embarked "HOBART".	
	14/4/41	Aircraft was flight tested in harbour. Pilot Officer McDonough later received first solo catapult.	
	17/4/41	Aircraft proceeded to Richmond in order to swing compasses, returning on completion.	
	18/4/41	"HOBART" proceeded to sea to carry out 6" full calibre firing. Aircraft was catapulted off Sydney to mark H.A. Firing for "ADELAIDE", after which it proceeded to Rose Bay fuelled and returned to carry out spotting for 6" shoot. Aircraft was recovered at sea, after which "HOBART" returned to Sydney.	
	22nd/4/41	"HOBART" escorting "AWATEA" departed from Sydney for Auckland arriving 25/4/41	
	27/4/41	"HOBART" departed from Auckland at 0830K (Zone - 12) and carried out Torpedo firing. The aircraft was catapulted in the Hawraki Gulf in order to instruct P/O McDonough in the slick method of landing and the towing method of recovery.	
	30/4/41	"HOBART" arrived Sydney.	

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No. of Sheet.....9.....

of (Unit or Formation) No. 9 Squadron Detachment H.M.A.S. HOBART.

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Sydney	1/5/41	Aircraft proceeded from Sydney Harbour to Rathmines to replace stores 0900 (Zone-10) Returned from Rathmines at 1520 (Zone-10)	
	7/5/41	R/O Higgins R.N.Z.A.F. embarked for catapult instruction (1600 (Zone-10)	
	9/5/41	F/O Higgins passenger for first catapult 1125 (Zone-10) F/O Higgins Dual Catapult 1425 (Zone-10) F/O Higgins 1st Solo Catapult 1505 (Zone-10)	
	10/5/41	F/O Higgins 2nd Solo Catapult 0905 (Zone-10) F/O Higgins disembarked 1530 (Zone-10)	
	15/5/41	0905 (Zone-10) Aircraft carried out height finding exercise for "Hobart" and "Adelaide"	
	16/5/41	0850 (Zone-10) Aircraft again carried out height finding for "Hobart" and "Adelaide"	
	19/5/41	1300 (Zone-10) Proceeded to sea for Gunnery practice (Aircraft towing Drogue supplied by No.9 Squadron Rathmines	
At Sea	20/5/41	0910 (Zone-10) Catapulted Aircraft to carry out "slick" landing practice 1105 (Zone-10) Catapulted Aircraft and carried out height finding exercises for ships	
Melbourne	21/5/41	Arrived Port Melbourne 0700 (Zone-10)	
	23/5/41	Proceeded to sea 1315 (Zone-10) with "Zealandia" in convoy	
At Sea	26/5/41	1135 (Zone-10) H.M.A.S. "Sydney" sighted. H.M.A.S. took over Zealandia.	
At Sea	28/5/41	Catapulted Aircraft 0945 (Zone-10) carried out Close Range Attack on ship. Ship berthed at Port Melbourne at 1115 (Zone-10)	
Melbourne	29/5/41	0840 (Zone-10) Aircraft carried out Navigation exercise from Port Melbourne to King Island	
	30/5/41	0900 (Zone-10) Aircraft was hoisted out and flew in the vicinity of Port Melbourne for the purpose of W/T tuning.	

Wm O'Donoghue P/O

Wing Commander
Commanding No. 9 Squadron R.A.A.F.