

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.A.F. Detachment H.M.A.S. "PERTH"

No. 2 Squadron,

of (Unit or Formation) RATHMINES, N.S.W.

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

No. of Sheet 1

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	<u>1941</u>		
RATHMINES	JULY 2	F/O FEARNOTT flew Seagull A2-18 to Farm Cove for test of crane and designing of aircraft stowage for H.M.A.S. "PERTH". Aircraft hoisted in and remained so overnight.	
SYDNEY	3	Aircraft returned to RATHMINES.	
RATHMINES.	5	Seagull A2-18 was flown to Farm Cove for tests of aircraft stowage and aircraft remained at ROSE BAY overnight.	
SYDNEY	8	Further test of stowage was carried out and aircraft returned to RATHMINES.	
	11	Detachment embarked in H.M.A.S. "PERTH" at Farm Cove. F/O E.V. BEAUMONT, No. 3970 CPL. MITCHELL, E. and 3927 LAC. McLAUGHLIN, C.J. flew from RATHMINES in Seagull A2-4, and No. 3698 L.A.C. COX, I.W.F. and No. 207743 LAC. BYRNES, F.F. travelled by road. L/TAG. D.M. BOWDEN and A.S. F.C. EDWARDS, R.A.N. joined to aircraft party by Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "PERTH".	
	12	Embarked aircraft stores at Farm Cove.	
AT SEA	20	Practiced "click" landings and hooking on under way with ship off PORT ADELAIDE.	
PT. PHILIP	31	Carried out dive-bombing practice (8 practice bombs) against fog buoy towed by ship. On completion practiced "click" landings and take offs assisted by ship. During the month height finding and spotting exercises were carried out.	
AT SEA	<u>1940</u> AUGUST 1	Practiced "click" landings and assisted take-offs in swell at sea off GABO IS. Report on method of assisted take-offs evolved called for by R.A.C.A.S.	
SYDNEY	2	Aircraft conveyed Captain Sir Philip POWYER-SMYTH, Bt., R.N., to CAMDEN and then proceeded to RATHMINES, remaining there until the 6th inst. when it rejoined the ship at Farm Cove.	
	7	Aircraft flew to RICHMOND and returned conveying Captain Sir P. B-SMYTH.	
	13	Carried out dummy dive-bombing attacks on ship and navigation exercises to seaward (pilot navigation).	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
SYDNEY	18	Carried out search to seaward off Sydney Harbour for mines reported by Captain of Merchant Ship. No mines sighted. (Lt/Cdr. G.C. OLDFAM, R.A.N., serving as observer).	
	26	Proceeded to RICHMOND to obtain stores, and returned to ship.	
	27	Proceeded to RATHMINES and subsequently returned to ship. Dive bombing practice attacks and height finding exercises were carried out on several occasions during the month.	
AT SEA	1940 SEPTEMBER	Hoisted out at sea, carried out dive-bombing practice (8 practice bombs) and proceeded ahead of ship into Sydney Harbour. Landed in Farm Cove and was picked up by ship on its arrival.	
SYDNEY	4	F/O BEAUMONT carried out test flight of Seagull A2-3 for Qantas at ROSE BAY.	
	9	Proceeded to RICHMOND for stores and returned.	
JERVIS BAY	12	Carried out dummy dive-bombing and machine gun attacks on landing party in afternoon, followed by 1 hour and 15 minutes night flying, with the assistance of lights hung upon the ship's side.	
AT SEA	22	During Admiral's inspection, 4" H.A. guns were fired in error on a forward bearing and considerable damage was done to the aircraft's mainplane and tailplane. No action could be taken, as the necessary repairs were beyond the capacity of the Detachment, and the ship was at sea observing W/T silence.	
SYDNEY	25	Aircraft was taxied from ship at Chowder Bay to Rose and handed over to QANTAS. Arrangements made by pilot with Central Area and No.9 Squadron to take over Seagull A2-17, completing overhaul at ROSE BAY, in lieu. Report on installation of bomb distributor in A2-17 required.	
	27	Seagull A2-17 was test flown by F/Lt. BEAUMONT and moored at Farm Cove.	
	28	A2-17 was flown to ROSE BAY for adjustment and subsequently embarked in ship at Farm Cove on 30.10.41. Height finding exercises were carried out on several occasions during the month.	

G.W. Beaumont
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding R.A.A.F. Detachment,
H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

G. J. Camell
Commanding No. 9

Squadron R.A.A.F.

15 OCT 1941

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R.A.A.F. Detachment

of (Unit or Formation) H.M.A.S. "PERTH"

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No. of Sheet.....2.....

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	17/11/41	Aircraft left RATHMINES and carried out height finding exercise for H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE. Landed at ROSE BAY. Embarked stores and Aircraft Personnel.	
	19/11/41	Ship proceeded to Cockatoo Island for tilt test.	
	22/11/41	Speed trials were carried out by the ship and Aircraft embarked and catapulted. This was first catapult and it was found that the crew were inexperienced at hoisting.	
	24/11/41	Catapulted for wireless test, which proved very satisfactory.	
	25/11/41	Left SYDNEY for PORT PHILLIP BAY	
	26/11/41	Arrived at PORT PHILLIP BAY for bombing exercise, and Aircraft catapulted.	
	27/11/41	Aircraft catapulted for torpedo spotting.	
	28/11/41	Aircraft catapulted for torpedo spotting. Left PORT PHILLIP BAY for SYDNEY.	
	29/11/41	Aircraft catapulted at sea to take crane parts to SYDNEY. Landed at ROSE BAY, and returned to ship to spot for 6" calibre shoot.	
	30/11/41	Left SYDNEY for AUCKLAND.	
	31/11/41	At Sea.	
		<p><i>L. B. O'Connell</i></p> <p>Wing Commander, Commanding No. 9 Squadron, <u>RATHMINES</u> <u>N.S.W.</u></p>	

10/12/41

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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(Feb. '33.)

Month of December, 1941.

R.A.A.F. Detachment,
H.M.A.S. "PERTH",
No. 9 Squadron, RATHMINES. N.S.W.

No. of Sheet..... 3

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
DECEMBER			
AT SEA	3	The aircraft was catapulted and carried out reconnaissance west of AUCKLAND.	
" "	4	Aircraft again catapulted and carried out reconnaissance west of AUCKLAND.	
SYDNEY	5	The aircraft was hoisted and flown to RATHMINES for stores.	
RATHMINES	6	Flew to ship at SYDNEY from RATHMINES.	
SYDNEY	9	Aircraft was catapulted and flown to ROSE BAY. Two hours later spotting was carried out for Ships Shoot and aircraft was then flown back to ROSE BAY.	
SYDNEY	11	Having changed aircraft spotting was carried out for H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA'S" shoot off Sydney Heads. 4.13.41	
SYDNEY	12	Proceeded to MASCOOT, swung compass and then returned to the Ship.	
AT SEA	13	The Ship proceeded to BRISBANE and left BRISBANE on the same day to pick up the convoy.	
" "	17	The Ship being south east of NEW CALEDONIA to contact the convoy, reconnaissance at St. VINCENTS PASS was carried and aircraft was then flown to NOUMEA and returned to the Ship.	
" "	20	The aircraft was catapulted for reconnaissance west of NEW CALEDONIA.	
BRISBANE	21	Having carried out reconnaissance east of BRISBANE, the Hull of the aircraft was damaged by the catapult leg whilst being brought on board.	
" "	22	A change of aircraft with H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA", was affected.	
SYDNEY	23	Aircraft was hoisted and proceeded to RATHMINES to collect an aircraft. Returned to Ship.	
" "	28	Ship left SYDNEY for PORT MORESBY.	

L.A. Bennett
 Wing Commander,
 Commanding No. 9 Squadron,
 RATHMINES. N.S.W.

12/31