

SECRET

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK.

No. 9 Squadron, R.A.A.F. Detachment,
of (Unit or Formation) H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA.R.A.A.F. Form A.50.
(Feb., '33.)

No. of Sheet 2.

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
INDIAN OCEAN Lat. 50'S. Long. 81°30'E	13.11.40	A2-11 was hoisted out at 1500 to carry out reconnaissance for the raider. One ship ("GLENARTNEY") was sighted at 1750. At 1809 the aircraft was hooked on and before it could be hoisted was severely damaged being towed through the water at 6 knots. A report on this accident has been rendered.	
COLOMBO	18.11.40	Walrus L.2322 was picked up at TRINCOMALEE by F/O. EKINS and flown to the ship at COLOMBO to replace A2-11. This aircraft was damaged taking off on 3.12.40 and was placed ashore at COLOMBO.	
SYDNEY	16.1.41	Seagull A2-13 was flown from RATHMINES to FARM COVE to replace A2-11 (U/S) which had been landed at ROSE BAY for repair.	
SYDNEY	20.1.41	A2-13 with crew of F/O. EKINS (pilot) Sub. Lt. EAGER (observer) and P.O./Tel. HENZELL hoisted out at 1015 and carried out spotting for full calibre shoot off SYDNEY. The aircraft developed engine trouble and returned to ROSE BAY before completion of shoot.	
ADMIRALTY GULF W.A.	11.2.41	A2-13 with pilot, T.A.G. and F/O. BINLEY (R.A.A.F. DARWIN) was hoisted out at 1345 and carried out a photographic reconnaissance of part of the Gulf. The aircraft hoisted in at 1445.	
	12.2.41	The aircraft took off at 0945 with Sgt. NEWTON as photographer and Lt. ADAMS as observer. Numerous photographs were taken and the aircraft landed at CRYSTAL HEAD anchorage where bearings and soundings were taken. At 1430 the aircraft was finally hoisted in.	
	13.2.41	Two more photographic flights were carried out between 0920 and 1430, during which time many photographs were taken, which proved valuable to the Navigation Officer of "WESTRALIA" when producing a chart of ADMIRALTY GULF.	
DARWIN	15.2.41	At 0555 A2-13 left WYNDHAM to carry out a dummy dive bombing attack on the oil tanks at DARWIN. On being sighted by the DARWIN Port War Signal Station a message was passed to No. 12 Squadron and five Wirraways took off to intercept the Seagull. The exercise was successful from the point of view of the raider.	
OCEAN ISLAND	15.4.41	A2-13 with crew of F/O. EKINS and S/Lt. EAGER and P.O/Tel. HENZELL took off at 1330 and carried out a square search in the vicinity of OCEAN IS. A negative report was given when the aircraft hoisted in at 1630.	

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
OCEAN ISLAND	16.4.41	A similar search with negative result was carried out from 1415 to 1700.	
	17.4.41	A similar search from 1445 - 1640 with no ships sighted.	
	21.4.41	A similar search from 0540 - 0805 with no ships sighted.	
NAURU	24.4.41	At 0730 the aircraft was hoisted out to search an area to the north of NAURU. No ships were sighted and the aircraft was hoisted in under way with the recovery boom at 0940. This was the first time the recovery boom had been used in "WESTRALIA" as it was only recently fitted. The test was satisfactory.	(iii) Damage to NAURU by German raiders.
	29.4.41	A similar search with negative results was carried out between 1500 and 1735.	
OCEAN ISLAND	2.5.41	At 1005 the aircraft was hoisted out to locate and signal S.S. RECINA to close OCEAN ISLAND. After a short search the ship was sighted and the orders given. She was shadowed for a short while and the aircraft landed at 1200.	
NAURU	8.5.41	A2-13 was hoisted out at 1445 and carried out a search to the N.E. of NAURU. Nothing of interest was sighted and the aircraft landed at 1720.	
	15.5.41	Further reconnaissance was carried out to the north of NAURU. MANOORA's aircraft assisted in the search which covered a large area. Nothing was sighted by either aircraft. A2-13 landed at 1730 and was hoisted in under way.	

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Month Ending :-
31.12.41

No. 9 Squadron,
R.A.A.F. Detachment,
of (Unit or Formation).....H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA.

No. of Sheet.....6

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
DECEMBER			
ARAFURA SEA	2	Took off at 0620 hours to carry out a search for T.S. ZEALANDIA. The ship was not found in the area which was searched and on returning to what was thought to be the position of H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA, the Pilot was unable to locate her and had to make a forced landing owing to petrol shortage. The aircraft was finally located by a Hudson Aircraft from R.A.A.F. Station, DARWIN at 1630 hours and was picked up by the ship at 2045 hours.	
DARWIN	4	The aircraft was flown from the ship to DARWIN and return.	
	5	Triangular navigation exercises were carried out from DARWIN to CAPE DON and return.	
	6	Compasses were swung on DARWIN Aerodrome.	
AT SEA	11	Took off at 1430 hours with Major WILLIAMS as passenger, and flew to KOEPANG to make arrangements for the landing of A.I.F. troops in KOEPANG BAY. Arrived at KOEPANG 1700 hrs.	
KOEPANG	12	Information was received that 3 Japanese Bombers were on their way to bomb KOEPANG Aerodrome and as a result the aircraft was flown to KOEPANG BAY. The pilot hid the aircraft in a small bay and when sure that everything was clear, took off and carried out an anti-submarine patrol for H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA and T.S. ZEALANDIA. Whilst on A/S patrol during the afternoon, the pilot saw a Hudson Aircraft dive and release bombs on what was assumed to be a submarine. The bombs failed to go off, so the pilot dived on the same spot and released one 100 lb. bomb, which landed in the wash of the unexploded bomb. During the whole time no submarine was seen; but the pilot of the Hudson Aircraft stated that he was sure that he had seen a shape or shadow which he thought was a submarine. The Dutch Cruiser "SOURABAYA", which was in the vicinity, weighed anchor and proceeded to sea immediately.	
	13	Anti-submarine patrols were carried out throughout the day, whilst troops were being disembarked.	
	14	Anti-submarine patrols were carried out until the departure of H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA and T.S. ZEALANDIA.	
	19	The aircraft was flown from the ship to DARWIN and during the afternoon bombing and gunnery exercises were carried out.	
	23, 24, 26	The aircraft was flown from the ship to THURSDAY ISLAND and back to ship and to CAIRNS and back to ship;	

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

15 JAN 1942