

[1/332]

OPERATIONS AND HISTORY

No. 461 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

JANUARY to NOVEMBER 1944

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[1/332]

OPERATIONS No. 461 SQUADRON, R. A. A. F.

JANUARY, 1944.

O.R.B. 1.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland EK.577 'D' captained by Aus. 415062  
P/O. R.S. Watts carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0857 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2215.

O.R.B. 2.1.44

AIR SEA RESCUE.

Sunderland JM.686 'Y' captained by Aus. 401999  
F/Lt. R. Newton airborne Pembroke Dock 0857. 1325 sighted  
2 FMs course 060, speed 8 knots. 1645 MTC 1 "No trace of  
dinghy, still searching. Have fuel for 11 hours; request  
permission to carry on till dark". 1706 MFC granting  
permission. 1718 2 unidentified aircraft approached in  
hostile manner; identified as Mosquitos after mid-upper had  
fired approximately 50 rounds. No other sightings.  
Waterborne Hamworthy 0034.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland DD.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
P/O. P.C. Leigh carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0500 - waterborne Hamworthy 1740.

AIR SEA RESCUE.

Sunderland EJ.133 'T' captained by Aus. 420692  
F/Lt. R.D. Lucas airborne Pembroke Dock 0855 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1956 sighted 2 minesweepers course 100/8 kts;  
exchanged recognition signals. 1543 ordered to land at Hamworthy.  
Waterborne Hamworthy 2215.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T2.

Sunderland JM.678 'G' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0630 - waterborne Hamworthy 1910.

O.R.B. 3.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 403216  
F/Lt. P.R. Davenport airborne Pembroke Dock 0922 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1031 Wireless Transmitter u/s so S/C base.  
No sightings. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1126.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EK.577 'D' captained by Aus. 415195  
P/O. P.E. Taplin carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0903 - waterborne Mount Batten 2212.

O.R.B. 4.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 403216  
F/Lt. P.R. Davenport airborne Pembroke Dock 0859 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1407 sighted unidentified aircraft thought to be Dornier Flying-boat; chased it in and out of cloud and on closing to 500 yards identified as Catalina. Unable to recognise markings. No other sightings. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2110.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T2.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 415062  
P/O. R.S. Watts carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0903 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2210.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland JM.686 'Y' captained by Aus. 401999  
F/Lt. R. Newton airborne Pembroke Dock 0936 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1326 sighted object on water; in shape, 2 frustrated cones joined at large diameter, length 6 feet, maximum diameter 4 ft, reddish colour may have been due to rust or red lead painting, short length of chain attached; estimated buoy. No other sightings. Patrol curtailed 1 hour 20 minutes owing to petrol consumption. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2124.

O.R.B. 5.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland DD.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
P/O. P.C. Leigh airborne Pembroke Dock 1028 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1647 sighted a feather of foam thought to be a periscope, but on closing to attack found to be a dolphin. 1652 - 1805 flying along Spanish Coast observed 150 feet wireless mast of Cape Finisterre. 1917 PMLT 2557 Station transmitting on 300 Kcs giving Consol coding. Only one bearing could be obtained - 108 degs second class loop. Efforts made to obtain later bearings but Station apparently had ceased transmitting. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2319.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland JM.678 'G' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 1026 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2248.

O.R.B. 6.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T5.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 409326  
F/O. D.A. Sinclair airborne Pembroke Dock 1023 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1640 S/C North due engine trouble; jettisoned D.Cs at 'Safe'. 1730 MFC "Land at Mount Batten". 1940 saw 2 steady bright red lights about 1 mile apart; not flame floats and too strong for dinghy lights. No Radar indication obtained and after circling for five minutes lights went out. Returned 2 1/2 hours early owing to trouble with both Port engines. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2104.

O.R.B. 6.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EK.577 'D' captained by Aus. 420692  
F/Lt. R.D. Lucas carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0546 but returned two hours early owing  
to weather at base. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1624.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland JM.683 'W' captained by Aus. 415195  
P/O. P.E. Taplin airborne Pembroke Dock 1025 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 2029 SE Contact bearing 340 T. 12 miles A/C's  
course 360 T. Turned to port and started homing out,  
contact down moon. At 8 miles turned Port and tried to  
position for attack up moon. When a/c was on course 160 T  
at 800 feet contact suddenly disappeared, between 5/5½ miles.  
Dropped 3 Marine Markers and circled position but due PLE  
S/C on patrol at 2044. 2034 MFC 1 "Have SE contact,  
probable U-boat position". Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2348.

O.R.B. 7.1.44

A.S.R. SEARCH.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 411298  
F/O. J.B.B. Dobson carried out an uneventful Air-Sea-Rescue  
Search. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0909 - waterborne  
Pembroke Dock 1710.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland JM.686 'E3' captained by Aus. 401999  
F/Lt. R. Newton airborne Pembroke Dock 1020 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1432 sighted 6 twin-engined a/c which approached to  
1200 yards on starboard quarter; started to send O-A when  
identified as Beaufighters. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1646.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland ED.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
P/O. P.C. Leigh carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 1028 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 1730.

O.R.B. 8.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EJ.133 'T' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson airborne Pembroke Dock 0959 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1500 MFC 1 "R/B immediately". 1725 MFC 1 "Where may  
I land." 1745 MFC 3 "Land Hamworthy". Waterborne  
Hamworthy 1919.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland EK.577 'D' captained by Aus. 420692  
F/Lt. R.D. Lucas carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1454 MFC 1 "R/B immediately". Waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 1822.

O.R.B. 9.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 401976  
P/O. P.C. Leigh airborne Pembroke Dock 0556 on Anti-Submarine

patrol. 1021 MFC 1 "Land in daylight at Base". 1034 engine trouble developed; starboard inner oil-pressure gauge fluctuated and dropped to zero; S/C base. MFC 1 "R/B, engine trouble, 46.02 N 10.03 W ETA 1410". 1200 MFC 2 "Land at Mount Batten on completion of patrol. What is your ETA and position". 1210 MFC 2 "Position 49.03 N 08.39 W ETA Mount Batten 1350". Waterborne Mount Batten 1343.

O.R.B. 10.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z1.

Sunderland DV.960 'H' captained by Aus. 404037  
F/O. A.G.G. Richmond, G.M. carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0902 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2130.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T2.

Sunderland JM.683 'W' captained by Aus. 415195  
F/O. P.E. Taplin carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0520 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 1800.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland JM.686 'Y' captained by Aus. 401999  
F/Lt. R. Newton carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0500 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 1729.

O.R.B. 11.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T2.

Sunderland JM.683 'W' captained by Aus. 415195  
P/O. P.E. Taplin airborne Pembroke Dock 0853 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1120 MFC 1 "Hunt U-boat in position 47.30 N. 15.00 W. 1303 Began square search 3 miles visibility, 19 legs completed. 1741 returned to 42.30 N 15.00 W and dropped two marine markers at 1750 hours S/C base. 2135 MFC 1 "ETA 2247 request W/K" 2245 St. Anne's Head, landing delayed owing to fog. 2335 force-landed outside Milford Haven - flare path obscured by fog. No damage to aircraft.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 401976  
P/O. P.C. Leigh airborne Pembroke Dock 0852 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 0904 R/B severe oil leak in starboard-inner engine. Attempted to signal but Group not raised in time. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1915.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland EJ.133 'T' captained by Aus. 409326  
F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair airborne Pembroke Dock 0800 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1118 oil leak port-outer engine, S/C base. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1438.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 420692  
F/Lt. R.D. Lucas airborne Pembroke Dock 0725 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Sighted 1 Eire M.V. 2500 tons course 240/7 kts.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0725 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2045.

O.R.B. 17.1.44 ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z3.

Sunderland DW.960 'H' captained by Aus. 404037  
F/O. A.G.G. Richmond, C.M. carried out an uneventful Anti-  
Submarine patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0907 - waterborne  
Mount Batten 1636.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z2.

Sunderland DD.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
F/O. P.C. Leigh carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0902 - waterborne Mount Batten 1632.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z2.

Sunderland JM.678 'G' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0500 - waterborne Mount Batten  
1643.

O.R.B. 19.1.44 ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland JM.686 'Y' captained by Aus. 401999  
F/Lt. R. Newton carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 0508 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 1645.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T2.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 411298  
F/O. J.B.B. Dobson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 1002 - waterborne Pembroke Dock  
2040.

O.R.B. 20.1.44 ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T3.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 409326  
F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair airborne Pembroke Dock 0706 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1153 decided R/B - both starboard engines back-firing  
and losing Revs. Jettisoned DCs and S/C Base - MTC 1 giving  
position and ETA. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1538.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T4.

Sunderland DD.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
F/O. P.C. Leigh airborne Mount Batten 1020 and carried out an  
uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2331.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION T1.

Sunderland EK.577 'D' captained by Aus. 420692  
F/Lt. R.D. Lucas carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine patrol.  
Airborne Pembroke Dock 1019 - waterborne Pembroke Dock 2307.

O.R.B. 21.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z2.

Sunderland EJ.142 'S' captained by Aus. 421298  
F/O. J.B.B. Dobson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Wirborne Pembroke Dock 1018 - waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 2215.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - PERCUSSION Z5.

Sunderland DV.960 'H' captained by Aus. 404037  
F/O. A.G.G. Richmond, G.M. carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 1003 - waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 2240.

O.R.B. 27.2.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL. - No. 1.

Sunderland JM.678 'G' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson airborne Pembroke Dock 0914 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1225 S.E. contact, Convoy, composition, course and  
speed unknown. 2 E/Vs only sighted. Waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 1702.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL. - No. 2.

Sunderland DD.866 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
F/O. P.C. Leigh airborne Pembroke Dock 0941 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1416 sighted convoy - composition and speed unknown.  
Course 030 T. No other sightings. Waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 1745.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - No. 3.

Sunderland DV.989 'F' captained by Aus. 415062  
F/Lt. R.S. Watts airborne Pembroke Dock 0906 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1433 sighted convoy, composition and speed unknown,  
course 020 T. 1445 V/S to Dr "Patrick" V/S from Dr "Int  
Meaning" V/S to Dr "Patrick" V/S to Dr "I go". No other  
sightings. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1734.

O.R.B. 28.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - No. 5.

Sunderland JM.683 'W' captained by Aus. 409326  
F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair airborne Pembroke Dock 0901 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. 1518 sighted large oil patch approximately 100 by  
70 yards. Circled patch and observed at least a dozen survivors  
in water and a quantity of wreckage. Dropped a dinghy which  
inflated and landed upside down on edge of oil patch approximately  
30 yards from nearest survivors. Sunderland D patrolled in the  
vicinity throughout the whole time we were present. Resume  
patrol. 1355 MEC 3 "Hunt U-boat reported 52.41 N 14.27 W  
at 1300 course 260/15 kts. 1415 MFC 4 "U-boat sunk, resume  
patrol". 2118 jettisoned DCs owing to adverse wind. Waterborne  
Pembroke Dock 2300.

Crew: - Aus. 409326 F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair  
 Aus. 418900 F/Sgt. L.P. Southall  
 Aus. 401949 F/O. G.W. Hazel  
 Aus. 416005 F/O. P. Pfeiffer  
 Aus. 414619 F/Sgt. H.A. Wyeth  
 F/Sgt. J.T. Bahelby  
 Sgt. M.R. Sandford  
 F/Sgt. G. Speedie  
 Aus. 421542 F/Sgt. R.W. Norris  
 Sgt. J.R. Hobbs  
 Aus. 421284 F/Sgt. J.H. Kendall

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL No. 5.

Sunderland EK 577 'D' captained by Aus. 420692 F/Lt. R.D. Lucas airborne Pembroke Dock 0836 on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1300 sighted U-boat estimated 500 tons 045/starboard bow, 13 miles. Attacked immediately. The submarine was surfaced. Flak was met from 6 guns, probably 20 mm cannon, but accurate fire from the aircraft's front armament put out of action approximately 10 gunners. The first attack with four DCs was unsuccessful, being 30 yards short, but the aircraft circled and made a second attack with the remaining two DCs, which scored a 'straddle' at the Conning tower. The U-boat blew-up, and about thirty bodies were seen together with a quantity of wreckage. During the attack the Captain's bomb-firing switch failed to operate, but the 2nd Pilot's ~~next~~ switch was operated by F/O. R.H. Prentice who occupied the 2nd Pilot's seat, and the D.Cs were successfully released. The whole action was over in ten minutes, and the Captain decided to set course immediately for base, as the aircraft appeared to be damaged by the effects of the violent evasive action which was taken during the run-up. Navigator was stunned by being thrown into the Ward-room. Waterborne Pembroke Dock 1640.

Crew: - Aus. 420612 F/Lt. R.D. Lucas  
 Aus. 420265 F/O. R.H. Prentice  
 Aus. 410444 F/Sgt. C.D. Bremner  
 Sgt. D. Mason  
 F/Sgt. G.H. Simmons  
 Sgt. D.N. Walker  
 Aus. 410448 F/Sgt. S.T.G. Bunnett  
 Aus. 415724 F/Sgt. W.J. Darcey  
 Aus. 416130 F/O. H.D. Roberts  
 Sgt. J.R. Brannen

Coastal Command Intelligence Summary. No. 239.

Sunderland D/461. Captain F/Lt. Lucas.  
 1303 and 1307 - 28th January, 1944.  
 52.41 N - 14.27 W. West of Ireland.

Aircraft on A/S patrol sighted a surfaced U-boat and attacked up U-boat's track, releasing from 50 feet, four 250 lb. Torpex depth charges, in the face of heavy flak. U-boat took evasive action and depth charges undershot, the nearest being 30 yards away. During the attack 'D' fired a number of rounds, killing several of the U-boat's gunners. A second attack was made from the U-boat's port beam with two 250 lb. Torpex depth charges, again from 50 feet. These straddled the U-boat's conning tower and a minute later it blew up amidships and disappeared. Approximately thirty bodies and a quantity of wreckage were seen in the water.

Extract from Coastal Command Review, January, 1944, Vol III, No. 1.

In the afternoon of January 28th, Sunderland D/461 was on an anti-U-boat sweep near a big convoy south-west of Ireland when the front gunner sighted a wake three miles away on the starboard bow. The U-boat herself was sighted through binoculars and was steering a northerly course. She was a 500-tonner, dark grey in colour, and had one quadruple 20-mm. mounting on the lower bandstand, one twin 20-mm. on the upper bandstand and two machine guns on the bridge. A white emblem was painted on the side of the conning tower. The U-boat made no attempt to dive as the aircraft ran in, but opened fire with all guns at about 3,000 yards range. The nose gunner of the Sunderland opened up at 1,000 yards as the aircraft flew in through the continuous stream of flak from the six cannon and the machine guns. Tracer was seen passing between the hull and the port float and the pilot took evasive action. The barrage followed the aircraft but was always just too late to hit.

When 400 yards dead astern of the U-boat the aircraft made a sharp turn to port and by the time it had closed to 200 yards the U-boat's guns were silent and the Sunderland was able to attack from the U-boat's port quarter without opposition. The first stick of four depth charges undershot, the nearest entering the water 50 yards from the conning tower. As the aircraft passed over, ten bodies were counted stream about the conning tower and bandstand. There was no sign of life on the deck, although the U-Boat itself seemed to be undamaged. The Sunderland immediately attacked again, this time from the U-Boat's starboard beam, and released the remaining two depth charges across the now silent U-boat. A perfect straddle was achieved, the depth charges entering the water and exploding one on each side of the conning tower.

One minute later, while the aircraft was circling to take photographs, an explosion was seen and the U-Boat disintegrated. A large patch of oil immediately appeared littered with wreckage and bodies, dead and alive. Hoping to obtain further evidence of the kill, the captain dropped a dinghy to the survivors. This, however, failed to inflate.

Photographs were not taken during the first attack because the Sunderland's evasive action was so violent that the rear-facing camera was wrenched from its mounting and the navigator was thrown from the galley to the wardroom, where he was temporarily knocked unconscious.

Analysis: - A very good look-out on the part of the front gunner and extremely good shooting. The U-Boat's box barrage has been noted before and the correct "undulating" evasive action as advised in Coastal Command Tactical Memoranda was adopted by the pilot. This undoubtedly saved the aircraft. The difficulties under which the depth charges were released in the first run resulted in an undershoot, but superb bombing with the remaining two depth charges in the second attack produced a decisive kill. A first-rate performance.

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 13136.

Flak Out-Witted: U-Boat Destroyed.

Taking such sharp evasive action that one of his crew was knocked unconscious, the Captain of a Coastal Command

R.A.A.F. Sunderland outwitted the gunners of a German U-boat and made two low-level depth charge attacks on it, destroying the enemy. After the U-boat had blown up, survivors were seen in the water.

The Sunderland, captained by 21-years-old F/Lt. E.D. Lucas, of Sydney, N.S.W. was on anti-submarine patrol several hundred miles west of Ireland when the front-gunner spotted the wake and conning-tower of a U-boat on the surface.

Although the flying-boat attempted to make use of partial cloud cover, the enemy sighted it and opened fire with all guns at 3,000-yards range.

"The flak appeared as a continuous stream from six cannons interspersed with machine-gun tracer," said F/Lt. Lucas. "Instead of aiming at us, the enemy put up a box barrage through which we would have to pass to make an attack.

"I made as though to climb above the barrage and then, when the U-boat lifted it, I promptly dived under. It was violent evasive action all right and it shook up some of the crew - my navigator was thrown around so violently he was knocked out - but it was effective."

At 1,000 yards range, the Sunderland's front gunner, F/Lt. G.H. Simmonds, of Grimsby, Lincs., returned the enemy fire with immediate and terrific effect. At 400 yards, the U-boat attempted avoiding action with a sharp turn to port and at 200 yards the enemy's fire was silenced.

"We swept over at 50 feet" said F/Lt. Lucas, "and as my bomb firing switch went unserviceable, the depth charges were released by the first pilot, F/O. R.H. Prentice, of Sydney, who took his time from me. This stick fell slightly short, but as we flew over we could see the effect of the front gunner's shooting. On and around the conning-tower, there were ten bodies and no sign of life at all.

"The U-boat, however, appeared undamaged, and we promptly circled for a second attack. This time, the depth-charges exploded on each side, slightly aft of the conning-tower.

"We were circling once again to take pictures when a minute after the attack, an explosion was seen in the U-boat, which simply disintegrated, leaving a large patch of oil on the surface and a litter of wreckage, debris and bodies, both alive and dead."

As it had been the navigator who was preparing the photograph the attack before he was knocked unconscious by the evasive action, no photographs were taken.

Although the Sunderland belonged to an R.A.A.F. Squadron of the Command, the crew comprised Englishmen and a Canadian as well as Australians.

Before the war, the Captain was in a Sydney real estate office. The first pilot worked in a bank, the front-gunner was a dance band musician, and the navigator, F/Sgt. C.D. Bremner, of Burwood, Victoria, was an insurance clerk and is generally regarded as a good "probable" for Australia's post-war Test Match eleven as wicket-keeper.

"It was exciting while it lasted" said the front-gunner, voicing the feelings of all the crew, "but above all,

it was some compensation for the house we have put in on patrol over the Atlantic and seen nothing. This makes you feel it has all been worth while and we all hope it's only the first of many U-boats."

"We've been flying together as a crew for about three months," said the Captain. "Our predecessors had christened the Sunderland 'Hop Along', and we stuck to the name, which seems to have brought us some luck."

R. A. A. F. Bulletin No. 347.

SEVEN CLERKS HELP "KILL" U-BOAT.

Seven peace-time clerks were included in the crew of a Coastal Command R. A. A. F. Sunderland which recently sank a U-boat in the Atlantic after evading a formidable box barrage of flak fire.

The captain of the Sunderland, Flight Lieutenant R. D. Lucas, was a clerk in a Sydney real estate office and the first pilot, Flying Officer R. H. Prentice, worked in a Sydney bank. They travelled together to Canada for training under the Empire scheme. Although originally posted to different squadrons they came together again when they crossed the Atlantic.

The navigator, Flight Sergeant C. D. Bremner, of Melbourne, was an insurance clerk, and his companion in the galley helping to take photographs of the "kill" during the Sunderland's violent evasive action was Flying Officer H. D. Roberts, air gunner, who was a costing clerk in Adelaide before enlisting.

Flight Sergeant W. J. Darcey of Leaderville, Western Australia, was a clerk with a firm of agricultural machinery merchants and Flight Sergeant S. T. G. Bunnett was a clerk in Ferntree Gully, Victoria.

The Canadian member of the crew, Sergeant Brannen of Wood's Harbour, Nova Scotia, is another bank clerk.

The front-gunner, who silenced the U-boat's gunners by accurate and well-timed fire during the run-in, killing or wounding 10 men on the enemy's conning tower platform, was a saxophonist in a dance band in peace-time. He was Flight Sergeant G. H. Simmonds, R. A. F. of Grimsby, England.

Thrown violently to the deck during strong evasive action, F/Sgt. Colin, D. Bremner, a well known Australian cricketer was knocked unconscious and missed photographing the first attack on a U-boat which was destroyed.

"As soon as action stations sounded" he said "I went amidships to take photographs of the attack with a hand camera. An air gunner, Flying Officer Roberts, was in the galley ~~making~~ cooking a meal but he threw it overboard immediately. It was just as well, for the next thing we knew there was a terrific barrage and the captain threw the flying about so violently we were thrown to the deck.

"I was knocked out for a time and missed the first attack but Flying Officer Roberts helped me up and I recovered in time to grab the camera and 'shoot' the second attack which ended with the U-boat blowing up".

O.R.B. 28.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL - POINT 1.

Sunderland DV.960 'H' captained by Aus. 404037  
F/O. A.G.G. Richmond, G.M., airborne Pembroke Dock 0900  
on Anti-Submarine patrol. 1405 MFC "Runt U-boat at  
52.41 N 14.27 W TOG 1300, course 360/8 kts". 1420 "Sub  
sunk, resume patrol". 1740 S/C Fastnet owing to fuel  
shortage. 1905 on obtaining 1st class MF fix (subsequently  
found to be wrong) giving position 70 miles W of IR  
position, Captain decided to jettison DCs as fuel was getting  
very low and a/c was flying through strong head-wind. 1948  
MFC "Request weather at Loch Erne". 2109 MFC 1 "Fuel low -  
request flare path. ETA 2226." Waterborne Pembroke Dock 2230.

O.R.B. 29.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland EK.575 'C' captained by Aus. 403860  
S/Ldr. H.G. Cooke, D.F.C. carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0830 - waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 2139.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland DV.989 'F' captained by Aus. 411298  
F/O. J.B.B. Dobson carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0837 - waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 2105.

O.R.B. 30.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland EJ.142 'B' captained by Aus. 401976  
F/O. P.C. Leigh carried out an uneventful Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Airborne Pembroke Dock 0855 - waterborne Pembroke  
Dock 1742.

O.R.B. 31.1.44

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland JM.686 'Y' captained by Aus. 412498  
F/Lt. C.J. Dawson airborne Pembroke Dock 0415 on Anti-Submarine  
patrol. Patrol shortened owing to excessive fuel consumption.  
Waterborne Loch Erne 1505.

ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL.

Sunderland JM.683 'W' captained by Aus. 409326  
F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair airborne Pembroke Dock 1002 on Anti-  
Submarine patrol. Uneventful. Waterborne Loch Erne 0030.

JANUARY, 1944.

January 10th, 1944. VISIT. The Rev. R.C. Russell, S/Ldr. Presbyterian Chaplain, of R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

January 17th, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 409417 A/F/Lt. D.H. Kennedy, was gazetted today.

January 26th, 1944. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. Aus. 256 W/Cdr. J.M. Hampshire, D.F.C. took over command of the Squadron from Aus. 171 W/Cdr. D.L.G. Douglas, D.F.C.

January 28th, 1944. SUBMARINE SUNK. Sunderland captained by Aus. 420692 F/Lt. R.D. Lucas, attacked a fully surfaced U-boat with depth charges and machine gun fire. Flak was met from the U-boat but accurate fire from the Sunderland put approximately 10 gunners out of action. The first four depth charges dropped were unsuccessful but the remaining two straddled the conning tower and the U-boat blew up. About thirty bodies were seen in the water with a quantity of wreckage. Sunderland captained by Aus. 409326 F/Lt. D.A. Sinclair dropped a dinghy to the survivors.

January 30th, 1944. VISIT. F/Lt. B.C. Andrew of Public Relations, R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron with the R.A.A.F. Film Unit.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.1.44.

Operational Hours 6182  
Operational Miles 984530  
Operational Morties 736

Enemy shipping destroyed 5, damaged 2.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 6, damaged 8.

VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS No. 461 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

FEBRUARY, 1944

Coastal Command Intelligence Summary No. 243

Sunderland S/461. 1812 - 23rd February, 1944.  
49.20 N. - 10.52 / S. of Ireland.

Aircraft on A/S patrol sighted Ju.290 on a reciprocal course, which turned and came up behind 'S'. Sunderland's rear and mid-upper guns opened fire and enemy aircraft made off without replying. No hits were observed on enemy aircraft.

For names and numbers of crew see Operations Records Book.  
Captain of the Sunderland was Aus. 411298 P/O. J.S.B. Dobson,  
of Dee Why, N.S.W.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd)

FEBRUARY, 1944.

February 3rd, 1944. SOCIAL. A Squadron dance was held to which the wives of all Squadron personnel were specially invited.

February 6th, 1944. W/Cdr. Douglas addressed a farewell message to personnel of the Squadron.

February 8th, 1944. S/Ldr. R.D.J. Baird took over the duties of Flight Commander.

VISIT S/Ldr. A.C.H. Fetherick, R.A.A.F. Liaison Officer, visited the Squadron.

February 15th, 1944. AIR SEA RESCUE. While on Anti-Submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 412498 F/Lt. C.J. Dawson directed an A.S.R. launch to three dinghies with American aircrew.

February 23, 1944. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. While on Anti-Submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 411298 F/O. J.S.B. Dobson had a short engagement with a Ju. 290. Shots were fired but no claim is made and no damage or casualties were sustained.

February 27th, 1944. SPORT. An "Australian Rules" football match was played in London against R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters.

February 29th, 1944. VISIT S/Ldr. R. Marsh from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

ARMAMENT. Three new aircraft were received during the month, fitted with the FN 5 twin-gun nose turret and four fixed front guns, as well as the "Gyro sight" tail turret.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 29.2.44.

Hours 8781  
Sorties 785  
Miles 1,055,210

Submarine sunk - 5, damaged - 2.

Enemy aircraft destroyed - 4, probably destroyed - 6, damaged - 8.

MARCH, 1944.

March 7th, 1944.      AWARDS.      Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 420692 F/Lt. R.D. Lucas  
Distinguished Flying Medal: - F/Sgt. G.H. Simmonds

March 23rd, 1944.      ATTACKS BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT.      While on Anti-Submarine patrol, Sunderland captained by Aus. 424550 F/O. F.H. Bunce was attacked by 9 Ju.88s, one of which was probably destroyed. A cannon shell hit the Sunderland in the port centre fuel tank, the whole port wing catching fire. Sunderland had to be ditched, and owing to sea conditions only seven of the crew were able to get into the dinghies and they were picked up 48 hours later by H.M. Destroyer "Saladin". Members of the crew still missing are: - Aus. 406654 F/O. O.L.I. Howard, Aus. 429299 F/O. J.H. Smith, Aus. 414847 F/Sgt. Royal, N.A., Aus. 425955 F/Sgt. Molan, D.R., Aus. 426186 F/Sgt. Smyth, R.A.

Sunderland captained by Aus. 429427 F/O. H.M. Godsall was attacked six times and damaged by four Ju.88s before the engagement was broken off.

March 25th, 1944.      AIR SEA RESCUE.      Sunderland captained by Aus. 403465 F/Lt. N.N. McKeough found and marked the dinghy containing the survivors of Sunderland captained by F/O. F.H. Bunce which ditched on 23.3.44, and remained until they were picked up by the destroyer.

STATISTICS.      Statistics from formation up to 31,3,44.

Hours 9,568  
Sorties 849  
Miles, 1,149,650

Enemy shipping destroyed 5, damaged 2.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

109

MARCH, 1944.

March 7th, 1944.      AWARDS.      Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 420692 F/Lt. R.D. Lucas.

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STATISTICS.      Statistics from formation up to 31.3.44.

Hours 9,568  
Sorties 849  
Miles 1,149,650

Shipping destroyed 5, damaged 2.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd)FEBRUARY, 1944.

February 3rd, 1944. SOCIAL. A Squadron dance was held to which the wives of all Squadron personnel were specially invited.

February 6th, 1944. W/Cdr. Douglas addressed a farewell message to personnel of the Squadron.

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VISIT S/Ldr. A.C.H. Fetherick, R.A.A.F. Liaison Officer, visited the Squadron.

February 15th, 1944. AIR SEA RESCUE. While on Anti-Submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 41298 F/Lt. G.J. Dawson directed an A.S.R. launch to three dinghies with American aircrew.

February 23, 1944. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. While on Anti-Submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 411298 F/O. J.S.B. Dobson had a short engagement with a Ju. 290. Shots were fired but no claim is made and no damage or casualties were sustained.

February 27th, 1944. SPORT. An "Australian Rules" football match was played in London against R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters.

February 29th, 1944. VISIT S/Ldr. R. Marsh from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

ARMAMENT. Three new aircraft were received during the month, fitted with the FN 5 twin-gun nose turret and four fixed front guns, as well as the "Cyro sight" tail turret.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 29.2.44.

Hours 8781  
Sorties 785  
Miles 1,055,210

Submarine sunk - 5, damaged - 2.

Enemy aircraft destroyed - 4, probably destroyed - 6, damaged - 8.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

APRIL, 1944.

April 1st, 1944. VISIT. A Film Unit accompanied by F/Lt. C.B. Andrews from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron and took several 'shots' of personnel and aircraft.

April 6th, 1944. VISIT. Wing Commander Jones, Legal Officer from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

April 15th, 1944. RECORD MONTH. The following message was received from the A.O.C. 19 Group.

"During the month of March, aircraft of No. 19 Group broke all previous records by flying a total of 17,750 hours. While it is admitted that the weather conditions during the month were exceptional, this fact placed an even greater strain on all concerned, and especially on the Maintenance personnel. All Squadrons did well, but the following are deserving of special praise: - Nos. 10(R.A.A.F.), 228, 461, 58, 502, 103(USN), 105 (USN), 110 (USN) and 304 (Polish) Squadrons. The latter squadron was outstanding, exceeding their task in both operational and training by a total of 185 hours. Only four Squadrons in the command exceeded 100 hours per aircraft, and of these three came from No. 19 Group, as follows: - 304 (Polish) - 105.9 hours; 105 (USN) - 105.6 hours; 110 (USN) - 104.7 hours.

I would like to congratulate all concerned, aircrews and groundcrews alike, and particularly those in the Squadrons mentioned, on this most satisfactory achievement."

April 25th, 1944. ANZAC DAY & SQUADRON'S 2ND BIRTHDAY. Special celebrations were held including a church service which was broadcast direct to Australia, the lesson being read by Air Vice Marshal H.N. Wrigley, Air Officer Commanding R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters. A sports programme was carried out in the afternoon, and a dance was held in the evening.

April 28th, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 424550 F/O. F.H. Bunce was gazetted today.

No enemy submarines or aircraft were attacked or sighted during the month - only uneventful patrols were carried out.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.4.44.

Sorties 900  
Hours 10,132  
Miles 1,262,690

U-boats sunk 5, damaged 2.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

1st April, 1944.

NOMINAL ROLL 461 SQUADRON

Aus. 418577. F/Sgt. Allardice, R.C. of Canterbury Victoria.  
Aus. 411112. F/O. Amiss, J.C. of Hawthorn, Victoria.  
Aus. 414332. W/O. Anderson, A.D. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 422094. F/Sgt. Auld, J.W. of Enfield, N.S.W.  
Aus. 401885. F/O. Bennett, C.R.T. of Balwyn, Victoria.  
Aus. 420913. F/Sgt. Brown, R.J. of Byron Bay, N.S.W.  
Aus. 406514. A/Ylt. Bird, P.C. of Bunbury, W.A.  
Aus. 405119. A/S/Lt. Beird, R.D.J. of Eismore, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418247. F/Sgt. Brewin, P.H. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
Aus. 410448. F/Sgt. Bunnett, H.T.J. of Lower Furntree Gully, Victoria.  
Aus. 410444. P/O. Bremner, G.D. of Burwood, Victoria.  
Aus. 417788. F/O. Bills, J.P. of Broken Hill, N.S.W.  
Aus. 423654. F/Sgt. Cottier, J.C. of Kingsford, N.S.W.  
Aus. 420444. W/O. Cochrane, J.W.B. of Manly, N.S.W.  
Aus. 412394. P/O. Catts, R.C. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
Aus. 410217. F/O. Creighton, J.W. of Thornbury, Victoria.  
Aus. 415859. F/Lt. Crocke, J.E. of East Victoria Park, E.A.  
Aus. 410455. F/O. Conning, G.S. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
Aus. 426310. F/O. Cheers, K.G. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 426055. F/O. Croll, J.H. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
Aus. 429929. P/O. Crompton, A.W. of Tasmore, S.A.  
Aus. 421251. F/Sgt. Dann, W.C. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
Aus. 411298. F/O. Dobson, J.B. of Dee Why, N.S.W.  
Aus. 425619. F/O. Done, W.G. of Kingaroy, Queensland.  
Aus. 10780. F/O. Dunn, W.V. of Kanna, Victoria.  
Aus. 413547. P/O. Davenport, K.H. of Blakelhurst, N.S.W.  
Aus. 415724. F/Sgt. Darcy, W.J. of Leaderville, W.A.  
Aus. 429261. P/O. Davies, A.B. of Sydney.  
Aus. 406929. F/O. Eastwood, G.R. of Lower Chittering, W.A.  
Aus. 425495. F/Sgt. Edge, J.R. of Melands, Queensland.  
Aus. 416390. F/O. Fisher, R.J. of Berri, S.A.  
Aus. 422798. F/O. Fielder, I. of Cremorne, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418835. F/Sgt. Gynge, R.E. of Caulfield, Victoria.  
Aus. 412591. F/Sgt. Gracie, C.V. of Randwick, Sydney.  
Aus. 408246. Sgt. Genders, E.H. of Launceston, Tasmania.  
Aus. 417079. F/Sgt. Goode, T.B. of Port Pirie, S.A.  
Aus. 427642. F/O. Goode, D. of Subiaco, W.A.  
Aus. 417479. F/Sgt. Gryst, A.B. of Adelaide, S.A.  
Aus. 429427. F/O. Godsall, H.M. of Toowoomba, Queensland.  
Aus. 426085. F/O. Gilmore, J.E. of Allora, Queensland.  
Aus. 417832. Sgt. Gramp, C.R. of Rowland Flat, S.A.  
Aus. 418945. F/Sgt. Harris, E.A. of Glenhuntley, Victoria.  
Aus. 401562. F/Lt. Hattam, R. of Mentone, Victoria.  
Aus. 420200. F/O. Hughes, D.Q. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
Aus. 419314. F/Sgt. Hyland, F.C. of Ascot Vale, Melbourne.  
Aus. 6612. A/Sgt. Hammond, R. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 23074. Hughes, F.E. of Melbourne, Victoria. (A/Sgt.)  
Aus. 415790. F/Sgt. Hawthorne, R.O. of Kalgoorlie, W.A.  
Aus. 421276. F/O. Hulford, R.J. of Cootamundra, N.S.W.  
Aus. 401949. F/O. Hazel, G.W. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
Aus. 421333. F/O. Higgins, B.L. of Wagga, N.S.W.  
Aus. 207439. F/O. Hannan, A.D. of Kensington, N.S.W.  
Aus. 417581. F/Sgt. Hodge, A.J. of Parkside, S.A.  
Aus. 426746. F/Sgt. Hobson, P. of E. Brisbane.  
Aus. 414686. F/Sgt. Howard, D.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 23509. Sgt. Howlett, R.F. of Manango, Queensland.  
Aus. 410888. F/Sgt. Hancock, R.E. of Victoria.  
Aus. 256. W/Cdr. Hampshire, J.W. of Sydney.

Aus. 427096. F/Sgt. Jaffey, F.L. of Perth, W.A.  
Aus. 405687. F/Sgt. Johnson, C.N. of Ingham, N. Queensland.  
Aus. 409030. W/O. Kent, J.W. of Strathfield, N.S.W.  
Aus. 403417. F/Lt. Kennedy, D.E. of Manilla, N.S.W.  
Aus. 425023. F/O. Kennedy, J. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 417492. F/Sgt. Kemp, R.G. of Streaky Bay, S.A.  
Aus. 421204. F/Sgt. Kendall, J.N. of The Rock, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418424. F/Sgt. Kidd, R.J. of Wonthaggi, Victoria.  
Aus. 403934. F/O. Little, D.A. of Brontis.  
Aus. 426628. F/O. Lowry, T.R. of Chinchilla, Queensland.  
Aus. 5594. F/O. Lewis, O.H. of Willunga, S.A.  
Aus. 409418. F/O. Livermore, J.E.R. of Vermont, Victoria.  
Aus. 401676. F/O. Leigh, P.C. of Surry Hills, Victoria.  
Aus. 416268. F/O. Linn, B.W. of Adelaide, S.A.  
Aus. 412999. F/O. Moffatt, D.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
Aus. 414314. W/O. Morgan, H.H. of Kyogle, N.S.W.  
Aus. 424324. F/O. Morse, S.R. of Bellevue Hill, N.S.W.  
Aus. 403465. F/Lt. McKeough, N.N. of Krambach, via Taree, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418160. F/Sgt. McLaren, L.M. of Port Melbourne.  
Aus. 426143. F/Sgt. McManera, L.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 6615. Sgt. Moore, J.A. of Kingsley, Queensland.  
Aus. 422608. F/Sgt. Need, R.S. of Ermington, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418757. F/Sgt. Murphy, L.A. of Brunswick, Victoria.  
Aus. 414514. W/O. McClure, R.G. of Benholo, Queensland.  
Aus. 403936. F/O. McCauley, V.J. of Melligen, N.S.W.  
Aus. 408013. W/O. Mitchell, T.J.N. of Hobart, Tasmania.  
Aus. 414296. F/O. McInnes, of Bundelberg, Queensland.  
Aus. 426364. F/Sgt. Martin, O.E. of Warwick, Queensland.  
Aus. 420820. F/O. Miller, A. of Kensington, Sydney.  
Aus. 421542. F/Sgt. Morris, R.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
Aus. 425543. F/Sgt. Oldmadow, J. of Brisbane.  
Aus. 419004. F/Sgt. O'Sullivan, J.W. of Melbourne, Australia.  
Aus. 420265. F/O. Prentice, R.H. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
Aus. 416005. F/O. Pfeiffer, P.G. of Point Pass, S.A.  
Aus. 11455. Sgt. Pearce, A.N. of Seven Hills, N.S.W.  
Aus. 426386. E/Sgt. Perry, H. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 420047. F/O. Pike, M.W. of Sydney, Australia.  
Aus. 402508. F/O. Peake, F.C. of Kaniva, Victoria.  
Aus. 8453. F/Sgt. Paget, T.E. of Morgambe, W.A.  
Aus. 402805. F/Lt. Peatty, I.V.R. of Granville, N.S.W.  
Aus. 401590. F/O. Payer, P.R. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
Aus. 26618. F/O. Russell, J. of Croydon, S.A.  
Aus. 404037. F/O. Richmond, A.G.O. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 416130. F/O. Roberts, R.D. of St.Kilda, Victoria.  
Aus. 419162. Sgt. Roydhouse, D.J. of Geelong, Victoria.  
Aus. 415695. F/Sgt. Stopher, R.D. of Kalgoorlie, W.A.  
Aus. 423340. F/Sgt. Stephenson, K.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
Aus. 402617. W/O. Sidney, D.C. of Coogee, N.S.W.  
Aus. 409326. A/F/Lt. Sinclair, D.A. of Rosanna, Melbourne.  
Aus. 410747. F/O. Sharp, J.E. of Hampdon, Victoria.  
Aus. 428853. F/O. Sheehan, N.O.C. of Marrabean, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418900. F/Sgt. Southall, I.F. of Surrey Hills, Victoria.  
Aus. 425064. F/Sgt. Seeley, R.J. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 412852. W/O. Smith, J.S. of Parkes, N.S.W.  
Aus. 420696. F/Sgt. Smith, G.P. of Summerhill, N.S.W.  
Aus. 413912. F/Sgt. Stening, W.H. of Sydney.  
Aus. 401630. F/O. Syme, F.M. of Melbourne.  
Aus. 419413. Sgt. Tyson, R.J.A. Footscray, Victoria.  
Aus. 412487. F/Sgt. Taylor, M.L. of Kentucky, N.S.W.  
Aus. 415195. F/Lt. Taplin, P.E. of Midland Junction, W.A.  
Aus. 5942. F/O. Taylor, A.J. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
Aus. 414600. W/O. Temple, J.D. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 418211. F/O. Turnbull, H.H. of Toorak, Victoria.  
Aus. 423267. F/Sgt. Toose, G.L. of Boree Creek, N.S.W.  
Aus. 415062. A/F/Lt. Watts, R.S. of Subiaco, W.A.  
Aus. 420365. W/O. Weeks, H.V. of Orange.  
Aus. 414619. F/Sgt. Wyeth, N.A. of Brisbane, Queensland.

Aus. 410797. F/Sgt. Websters, R.L. of Melbourne.  
Aus. 410767. F/Sgt. Wright, G.S. of Victoria.  
Aus. 424254. F/Sgt. Woolley, R.H. of Mudgee, N.S.W.  
Aus. 414111. W/O. Warfield, R.G. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 426210. F/Sgt. Williams, M. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 415372. F/O. Wright, G.E. of Boyup Brook, W.A.  
Aus. 428990. P/O. Wylie, N.A. of Alberton, S.A.  
Aus. 419103. P/O. Willis, K.B. of Ivanhoe, Victoria.  
Aus. 437032. Sgt. Walsh, L.J. of Forestville, S.A.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

MAY, 1944.

May 9th, 1944. N.C.O. CAPTAINS SUNDERLAND. For the first time in this unit's history an N.C.O - Aus. 418900 F/Sgt. I.F. Southalt captained a Sunderland on an Anti-Submarine patrol.

May 22nd, 1944. Group Captain Pierce, Chief Intelligence Officer of H.Q.C.C. talked to all aircrew personnel on the coming "invasion" giving some idea of what the Pembroke Dock Squadrons participation would be.

INVESTITURE. Aus. 14455 Sgt. A.N. Pearce and Aus. 10530 Sgt. F. Bamber who were awarded the D.F.M. on 15.10.43 attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace and received their decorations from H.M. the King.

No enemy submarines or aircraft were engaged during the month.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.5.44.

Hours 10,622  
Sorties 939  
Miles 1,321,490

Enemy submarines destroyed 5, damaged 2.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

(105 H61 helped to provide  
air cover)

29/12/43 - No. 30.

Air Ministry News Service.

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12451.

AIRCRAFT SEARCH ENEMY FLEET

BLOCKADE RUNNER DESTROYED

91

Destruction of three enemy destroyers and damage to others as well as the shooting down of an He.177 by R.A.F. Mosquitos, was the result of a combined air and sea action in the Bay of Biscay by forces of Coastal Command, U.S. Navy aircraft operating with the command and a task force of British cruisers.

This operation took place a few hours after an enemy blockade runner carrying a cargo of supplies for Germany, was set on fire and destroyed by aircraft of Coastal Command. It is believed that the enemy destroyers had gone out to meet and escort home the blockade runner.

After the attack on the blockade runner four lifeboats, containing altogether about 70 survivors, were seen a mile or two from the vessel, together with several empty rafts.

This important ship, a fast modern merchantman, is believed to have been coming from the Far East, making its way to a port on the west coast of France.

Aircrews reporting on the attack at their bases described the vessel as apparently having gun emplacements on the poop deck and bows and three Oerliken gun positions on the port and starboard beams.

By dusk the ship was ablaze from stem to stern and sinking after it had been attacked from high and low levels by a force of Coastal Command aircraft, which included Liberators, Sunderlands and Halifaxes. One of our aircraft, a Halifax, is missing.

The blockade runner, travelling at high speed, was first sighted, at 10.30 a.m. on Monday by a Sunderland. A sighting report was at once signalled by this flying boat, with the result that other aircraft were diverted to the scene and a striking force of Halifaxes was despatched.

From the moment of the first sighting until the ship was left sinking, Sunderlands of R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. squadrons kept the merchantmen constantly shadowed despite poor visibility and successfully "homed" the other aircraft to its position.

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Within an hour a R.C.A.F. Sunderland was over the ship, and although damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the vessel, dropped bombs, one of which was seen to explode close to midships.

During the afternoon a Liberator from a Czech squadron of Coastal Command engaged the ship, which took sharp evasive action and fired at the aircraft with heavy and light flak. The Liberator attacked immediately at 600 feet and scored hits. One bomb struck the stern, causing a violent explosion, which hurled masses of debris high into the air, and fire immediately broke out. This effective attack crippled the vessel.

"I estimate that when we sighted the blockade runner it was travelling at 15 knots, and as we went into attack, it opened fire at us", the Czech pilot said.

"My navigator did some fine work, we saw one bomb hit the ship aft behind the funnel. Immediately vivid red flames shot out and rose about 200 feet. At the same time, there was a great explosion which rocked our aircraft 600 feet above. We flew around for five minutes and saw flames spread the entire length of the ship.

"It was by then fairly well slight but we could not stay to see the full result of our action as trouble had developed in our starboard outer engine. Moreover, we feared that the weather would close down on us, though we succeeded in reaching our base without serious difficulty. Before we left the vessel we directed a Halifax to it".

"The fire continued spreading throughout the next half hour, enveloping the whole vessel from forward of the superstructure to the stern", a Halifax pilot said. "When we last saw it the ship was listing to port and down at the stern."

The pilot of another Halifax reported that the ship was ablaze from stem to stern.

"I saw two large and two small lifeboats", he stated. "The larger type carried 25 to 30 survivors each and the smaller ones ten apiece.

"The enemy crew were wearing yellow brown lifejackets".

Another Halifax saw several explosions on the vessel, including two large ones from the outer hatch accompanied by thick black smoke.

Meanwhile, a Dutch pilot of a further Halifax found the ship low in the water, with flames mast high.

The action against the destroyers began shortly after dawn on Thursday, when a Liberator of a U.S. Navy squadron operating with Coastal Command sighted a strong force of enemy destroyers in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay, some 250 miles north of Cape Ortegal.

Immediate orders were given for the aircraft to shadow the enemy fleet and 'home' on to its position a British naval force of two cruisers and a Coastal Command striking force of the U.S.N. Liberators. Other aircraft, both Liberators and Sunderlands, were diverted to the position to aid in the shadowing, while a strong formation of Beaufighters was detailed to provide air cover to the British ships, R.A.F. Mosquitos carrying out offensive sweeps in the area at the same time.

"It was at 9.20 in the morning that I first sighted a formation of German destroyers", said Lieutenant S.J. Johnson, the Captain of the U.S.N. Liberator "V" for Victor."

"I flashed a signal to base and then, scarcely 10 minutes later, I saw another formation of German destroyers about 15 miles away. It was just after dawn and visibility was not too good. We had been ordered to shadow the enemy ships however, and several times when we broke cloud within two or three miles of one or the other formation all their guns would open up as they had screak at us. Mostly we kept just out of range".

Great skill and tenacity were shown by the captain and crew of this Liberator under predominantly bad weather conditions. They set course for base only when relieved by another aircraft and after the naval action had been joined, although their prudent limit of endurance had been passed.

At 11.15 a.m., less than two hours after the first sighting, a Coastal Command Sunderland flying boat sighted three of the destroyers in the base but lost them again while taking evasive action from a He.111.

A few minutes later a second U.S. Navy Liberator "X" sighted the destroyers, which had joined up and were steaming westwards in two lines ahead at about 16 knots. Both of the Liberators were attacked by enemy aircraft, "V" for Victor easily eluding a Ju.88 while "X" poured a burst of fire into a F.200 which attacked head on and disappeared overhead. Meanwhile, both the British cruisers had been steaming to intercept the enemy and shortly before two o'clock in the afternoon the Liberators sighted the cruisers some ten miles away.

"Exactly nine minutes after I first saw the cruisers I noticed apparent explosions in the water near the destroyers", said the captain of "X". It was the splash of bursting shells as the cruisers fired their first sighting shots.

"There was hard shooting on both sides when the British cruisers appeared", said Lieutenant Johnson, "but the enemy destroyers were very much out-classed. Almost at the start of the battle the Nazi destroyers tried to seek cover behind a smoke screen and soon the muzzle flashes and speeding ships were partly obscured by the smoke."

Then the enemy once again separated into two formations, four of the destroyers remaining in contact with the cruisers while the remainder broke off at full speed. A Sunderland was detailed to shadow one of these forces while a Liberator kept close above the second.

Meanwhile long-range R.A.F. Mosquitos patrolled over the Bay of Biscay in support of the operation and an He.177 bomber was destroyed by one of them in the early evening.

One Mosquito pilot, Squadron-Leader H.E. Tappin, D.F.C. of Southampton, who had as his navigator Flying Officer Thomas, had been flying near the cruisers and Liberators for more than half an hour when four enemy aircraft were sighted circling near a ship. One of them was recognized as a Heinkel and Squadron Leader Tappin went in to attack. After a combat, in which his own Mosquito was hit by return fire, he sent the Heinkel into the sea.

By now he was separated from the other Mosquitos and he began to fly his damaged aircraft back from the scene of the battle. Six minutes later S/Ldr. Tappin sighted a Ju.88 and again went in to attack. The Junkers made for cloud, however, and the Mosquito flew safely back to England.

As dusk was falling and until after darkness the striking force of American Liberators joined the battle. Sweeping in low the aircraft flew through heavy anti-aircraft fire to drop their bombs. In the darkness, however, it was impossible to make accurate observation of possible damage.

"we made our attack from a thousand feet" said the captain of "L" for Love". Lieutenant R.C. Quinlan, "and passed over a destroyer at about 240 miles an hour. As I circled around, my navigator and rear-gunner reported that the bombs had straddled the ship and that only the bows could be seen emerging from the smoke.

contd/

40  
A second destroyer then opened fire on us and my Liberator was hit: the hydraulic system was put out of action and other parts damaged. In addition the rear gunner was slightly wounded."

Before night fell several of the aircraft noticed enemy survivors in life boats, yellow dinghys and rafts.

"There was a large 'slick' of oil and between 30 and 40 men were clustered in two yellow dinghys", said one of the Liberator captains. "They fired flares at us."

Another U.S.N. Liberator reported having seen between 130 and 140 survivors in blue watch caps and blue suits wearing life jackets. They were in a covered whale-boat. Two life boats and ten rafts - some of them tied together.

As one of the aircraft turned for home after the action the crews saw a large dull red glow flaming up on the horizon. "We think it was burning oil" one of them said.

The engagement was finally broken off long after dark and the shadowing aircraft set course for home. "We continued to fly around the area until the battle was too dispersed and visibility through the smoke and darkness too poor for us to do any good" said one of the American captains.

Only one of our Beaufighters failed to return from this phase of the action.

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461 Sunderland

7/0 F. Cascoigne, East Malvern, Vic.

10.7.42 - No. 1

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 7483

DINGHY RESCUE BY SUNDERLAND  
IN BAY OF BISCAY

The crew of six of a Coastal Command Whitley were rescued from their dinghy in the Bay of Biscay yesterday (Wednesday) evening by another of the Command's aircraft - a Sunderland flying boat, which alighted on the sea, took them on board and flew back to base.

The Whitley developed engine trouble during a recent U-boat hunt and it soon became evident that it would have to be "bitched". The wireless operator, Sergeant George Barfoot, aged 21, (who was in the King's employment and whose address is Buckingham Palace), sent out a distress message. The Whitley hit the water, the dinghy inflated, and the crew - only one of whom was slightly hurt in the crash - climbed into it.

The dinghy rocked precariously in the swell and shipped a good deal of water. Thinking they might be in the sea for many days the crew made plans to ration their food.

During Tuesday evening a second Whitley sighted smoke from a Vercy stridge on the horizon about 100 miles from the Spanish coast. The six men in the dinghy were waving as the aircraft flew overhead. The pilot gained altitude to send a message to base giving the position. When he descended near the sea again he was unable, in the gathering dark, to find the dinghy.

The search was taken up by other Whitleys, and on Wednesday morning the dinghy was again picked up. It was drifting towards the Spanish coast. During the morning it was decided to send a Sunderland to try and bring back the survivors. The Sunderland was captained by Wing Commander H.A.R. Holliday, aged 30, of Liphook, Hants. The navigator, Flying Officer Frederick Cascoigne, of East Malvern, Victoria, Australia, carefully checked his navigation calculations and finally narrowed down the search area to 30 miles square.

"We had been searching for one and a half hours when we saw a puff of smoke", said the Wing Commander. "It came from the dinghy which was then three miles ahead. We circled it, and although the swell looked unpropitious we decided to try and land. We had our fingers crossed as we went down. There was a bump and for a moment I thought we had broken the starboard float - it went right under the water. But we landed successfully.

"Then came the tricky job of either getting the Sunderland to the dinghy or the dinghy to the Sunderland. We manoeuvred for ten minutes without getting nearer than about 50 yards, so my first pilot took off his clothes and prepared to carry a line to the dinghy.

"Before he could do so the second pilot got up on the wing, which was pitching heavily, and climbed along it with a line. He heaved the line from the wing tip to the dinghy crew, who picked it up. The pilot crashed back along the wing, towing the dinghy behind him and we soon had all the crew aboard. We had no trouble at all with the take-off."

The Whitley crew had been in their dinghy for just under 24 hours. They were down to their last Vercy cartridge when they were rescued. Together with the Sunderland crew, they had a celebration supper stood them by an American Intelligence officer on the station.

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History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

JUNE, 1944.

8/9th June, 1944. TWO U-BOATS ATTACKED. While on Anti-Submarine patrol, Sunderland captained by Aus. 428853 F/O. N.O.G. Sheehan attacked a fully surfaced U-boat with 6 depth charges during darkness. Entry splashes were seen by the rear gunner who estimated that a straddle was obtained on the conning tower. In reply to the U-boats fire the front gunner opened up and hits were estimated on the gun position forward of the conning tower. Nothing further was seen.

Again during the hours of darkness another fully surfaced U-boat was attacked by Sunderland captained by Aus. 409418 F/O. J.B.R. Livermore. Explosions of at least three depth charges were seen apparently enveloping the U-boat aft of the conning tower. U-boats fire was silenced by the Sunderland's gunners. Nothing further was seen.

AWARDS. Aus. 428853 F/O. N.O.G. Sheehan and Aus. 409418 F/O. J.B.R. Livermore have been awarded "immediate" D.F.Cs for the above mentioned attacks.

10/11th June, 1944. SUNDERLAND LOST. After shadowing an enemy convoy, which opened fire - no damage sustained - Sunderland captained by Aus. 413547 F/O. K.H. Davenport was ordered to land at Scillies, but fog down to sea level prevented this and owing to shortage of fuel captain decided to land on sea off St. Mary's. On becoming waterborne Sunderland's starboard float was knocked off and it became necessary to abandon aircraft. The crew took to dinghies and were picked up 1½ hours later by A.S.R. launch. Sunderland turned over and was sunk by gunfire from A.S.R. vessels.

19th June, 1944. U-BOAT ATTACKED. While on Anti-Submarine patrol, during daylight, Sunderland captained by Aus. 424550 F/O. F.H. Bunce sighted a fully surfaced U-boat which submerged while aircraft was still four miles distant. Sunderland reached swirl 40 secs later and 2 depth charges were dropped. No results were seen.

RECORDS. 78 sorties and 931 operational hours were completed during the month. Both figures are records for the Squadron.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.6.44.

Hours 11,564  
Sorties 1,018  
Miles 1,434,530

Enemy submarines destroyed 5, damaged 4.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS No. 461 SQUADRON. R. A. A. F.

JUNE, 1944.

Coastal Command Intelligence Summary No. 258.

Sunderland G/461  
Captain - F/O. Livermore  
0048 - 9th June, 1944.  
46.10 N - 04.30 W.  
Bay of Biscay.

Aircraft on A/S patrol obtained radar contact at fourteen miles, homed and illuminated with flares a surfaced U-Boat. Flak was experienced on run in which was silenced by aircraft front guns at 800 yards. Aircraft attacked from port beam with six 250 lb. Torpex depth charges set at 25 feet, spaced 55 feet, dropped from 300 feet. Explosions seen to envelope U-Boat aft of coming tower. After attack U-Boat contact remained stationary and searched target area but nothing further was seen.

For names and numbers of crew see Squadrons Operations Records Book for this date.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 15702 attached.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

Coastal Command Intelligence Summary No. 258.

Sunderland F/461  
Captain - F/O. Sheehan.  
0032 - 9th June, 1944  
47.11 N - 06.27 W.  
Bay of Biscay.

Aircraft on A/U patrol obtained a radar contact at 6½ miles, homed and sighted U-Boat on the surface. Aircraft attacked with six 250 lb. Torpex depth charges, set at 25 feet, spaced 55 feet, dropped from 250 feet at an angle of 030 degrees from port quarter to starboard bow. Entry of depth charges seen and they are estimated to have straddled across coming tower. U-Boat contact disappeared within two minutes of the attack. No further results seen. Flak experienced during run in, which ceased immediately before attack.

For names and numbers of crew see Squadrons Operations Records Book for this date.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

Coastal Command Intelligence Summary No. 260.

Sunderland A/461.  
Captain - F/O. Bunce  
1501 - 19th June, 1944.  
49.35 N - 08.13 W.

Aircraft on A/U patrol sighted fully surfaced U-Boat. As Aircraft approached U-Boat opened fire at 4 miles range; U-Boat then submerged leaving large swirl. "A" attacked swirl dropping two 250 lb. depth charges, setting 25 feet, spacing 55 feet, from 50 feet. Depth charges exploded about 400 yards ahead of apex, no results were seen.

For names and numbers of crew see Squadron's Operations Records Book for this date.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

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22.9.44 - No. 6

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST IN OVERSEAS BULLETINS OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 0830 HOURS B.S.T. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1944. OVERSEAS MESSAGES SHOULD BE PREFACED WITH THIS EMBARGO

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.15702

SUNDERLAND DAMAGES U-BOAT

A cascade of multi-coloured flashes rising to a height of fifteen feet and continuing for 20 seconds was seen by the crew of a R.A.A.F. Sunderland of R.A.F. Coastal Command after they had dropped depth-charges on a U-boat.

Following the attack, the U-boat disappeared but twelve hours later a Sunderland of another squadron, operating from the same base, sighted considerable wreckage and large patches of yellow seaweed or scum within fifteen miles of the position of the attack.

The U-boat, was first sighted by the Sunderland captain, F/O J.B.R. Livermore, of Vermont, Victoria, N.S.W., and his nose gunner, F/Sgt. R.E.J.Hancock, of Gerongaito, Victoria.

The sighting was mutual, for the U-boat immediately opened fire and the Sunderland, taking evasive action, replied, hits being observed on the conning-tower. When the U-boat's fire ceased, depth-charges were dropped and the tail gunner opened fire as the aircraft tracked over the U-boat.

The tail and midships gunners observed at least two explosions close to the hull of the U-boat on the starboard side and immediately abaft the conning-tower.

After the depth-charges had exploded they saw the cascade of flashes.

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JULY, 1944.

8th July, 1944. ATR/SEA RESCUE. While on Anti-Submarine patrol, Aus. 409418 F/O. J.B.R. Livermore and crew sighted twenty dinghies containing U-boat survivors and directed destroyers to the area.

No U-boats or enemy aircraft were seen this month.

Number of U-boats damaged goes down from 4 to 3 as F/O. Sheehan's attack on the 8.6.44 has been classed as "insufficient ~~damage~~ evidence".

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.7.44.

Sorties 1,083  
Hours 12,356  
Miles 1,529,570

U-boats destroyed 5, damaged 3.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7,  
damaged 8.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

AUGUST, 1944.

10/11th August, 1944. U-BOAT SUNK. Sunderland captained by Aus. 418900 P/O. I.F. Southall attacked a fully surfaced U-boat with six depth charges and after the explosions the U-boat was seen stationary and was later destroyed by a naval escort group.

11th August, 1944. The Squadron's medical officer, S/Ldr. J. Catarinich was married to Section Officer E. Fenerty, W.A.A.F. Assistant Adjutant on this Station.

12/13th August, 1944. U-BOAT SUNK. Another fully surfaced U-boat was attacked with depth charges by Aus. 434934 P/O. D.A. Little and crew. Sunderland then lost touch with U-boat so contacted Escort Group which later reported U-boat sunk and survivors rescued.

13/14th August, 1944. U-BOAT ATTACKED. While on Anti-Submarine patrol, Sunderland captained by Aus. 428288 P/O. R.R. Alexander sighted a fully surfaced U-boat which opened fire with seven or eight guns. Sunderland attacked with 6 depth charges and explosions seemed to envelop the U-boat. Nothing further was seen.

23rd August, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 409418 P/O. J.B.R. Livermore and Aus. 428853 P/O. N.O.C. Sheehan was gasetted today.

18th August, 1944. VI SIT. H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, visited the Squadron. A.V.M. H.N. Wrigley, A.O.C. of R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters was present.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.8.44.

Hours 13,480  
Miles 1,664,450  
Sorties 1,172

Enemy U-boats destroyed 7, damaged 4.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd)

SEPTEMBER, 1944.

No U-boats or enemy aircraft were sighted or attacked during the month.

Six aircraft, complete with aircrew and ground personnel went on detachment to Sullom Voe, Shetland Islands while a similar number of 210 Squadron arrived at Pembroke Dock on attachment for training in Leigh light anti-submarine operations.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.9.44.

Sorties 1,231  
Hours 14,188  
Miles 1,749,410

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

OCTOBER, 1944.

1st October, 1944. SUNDERLAND LOST. One of the aircraft on detachment Sullom Voe failed to return from an Anti-Submarine patrol. The missing crew were: - Aus. 429427 F/O. H.M. Godsall, Aus. 419013 F/O. E.B. Willis, Aus. 408152 F/O. D.J. Jennings, Aus. 418211 F/O. H.H. Turnbull, Sgt. F. Reed, W/O. L.G. Remblance, Aus. 423654 F/Sgt. J.C. Cottier, Aus. 423267 F/Sgt. G.L. Toose, Aus. 417621 F/Sgt. P.R. Criddle, Aus. 418247 F/Sgt. P.H. Brewin and Sgt. J. Cottam.

10th October, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 414296 F/O. L.F. McInnes  
Aus. 428288 F/O. R.R. Alexander

Distinguished Flying Medal: - Aus. 417966 F/Sgt. C.R. McIardo  
Aus. 422720 F/Sgt. F.V. Robinson

24th October, 1944. INVESTITURE. Aus. 256 W/Cdr. J.M. Hampshire, D.F.C. attended an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, where he received the D.F.C. from H.M. The King.

31st October, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: @ Aus. 403934 F/O. D.A. Little  
Aus. 418900 P/O. I.F. Southall

Uneventful Anti-Submarine patrols and Convoy Escorts were carried out during the month from Pembroke Dock and Sullom Voe. The Sullom Voe detachment returned to Pembroke at the end of the month

STATISTICS.

Statistics from formation up to 31.10.44.

Miles 1,832,930

Hours 14,884

Sorties 1,295

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

History of No. 451 Squadron (contd).

NOVEMBER, 1944.

No U-boats or enemy aircraft were attacked or sighted during the month.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.11.44.

Hours 15,364  
Sorties 1,337  
Miles 1,645,680

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

DECEMBER, 1944.

There were no sightings of U-boats or enemy aircraft during the month.

SUNDERLAND LOST. Returning from an operational flight, Sunderland captained by Aus. 428288 P/O. R.R. Alexander, D.F.C. collided with an unlighted Marine Tender and started to make water rapidly. After the removal of as much equipment as possible, the aircraft had to be abandoned.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.12.44.

Miles 1,906,800  
Hours 15,890  
Sorties 1,385

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

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NOMINAL ROLL 461 SQUADRON

Aus. 411112. F/Lt. Amies, J.C. of Hawthorn, Victoria.  
 Aus. 422094. F/Sgt. Auld, J.W. of Enfield, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 428288. F/O. Alexander, R.R. of St. Arnaud, Victoria.  
 Aus. 434556. F/O. Anderson, J.J. of Queensland.  
 Aus. 422023. F/Sgt. Angus, K.G. of N.S.W.  
 Aus. 416818. W/O. Allan, R.D. of Croydon, S.A.  
 Aus. 413103. F/O. Buckman, H.W. of Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 401885. F/O. Bennett, C.R.T. of Balwyn, Victoria.  
 Aus. 420913. W/O. Brown, R.J. of Byron Bay, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 405119. A/S/Lt. Baird, R.D.J. of Lissore, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 410247. F/Sgt. Bawin, P.H. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
 Aus. 410448. W/O. Bunnett, S.T.G. of Lower Furntree Gully, Vic.  
 Aus. 410444. F/O. Bremner, G.D. of Burwood, Victoria.  
 Aus. 417788. F/O. Bills, W.P. of Broken Hill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 424550. F/Lt. Bunce, F.E. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 423988. F/Sgt. Clarke, F.W. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 423654. F/Sgt. Cottier, J.C. of Kingsford, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420444. F/O. Cochrane, J.W.B. of Manly, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 412394. F/O. Catts, R.C. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 410217. F/O. Creighton, J.W. of Thornbury, Victoria.  
 Aus. 426310. F/O. Cheers, K.G. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 426055. F/O. Croll, J.E. of Newcastle N.S.W.  
 Aus. 429929. F/O. Crompton, A.W. of Tasmare, S.A.  
 Aus. 427442. F/Sgt. Edulter, J.R. of Inglewood, W.A.  
 Aus. 426052. F/O. Copland, D.A. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 419111. F/Sgt. Clough, L.R. of Rainbow, Victoria.  
 Aus. 425602. W/O. Clecher, L.W. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 417621. F/Sgt. Criddle, P.R. of Kingston, S.A.  
 Aus. 418523. W/O. Claxton, R.C. of Chelsea, Victoria.  
 Aus. 417568. F/Sgt. Dick, J. of Mt. Templeton, S.A.  
 Aus. 421251. W/O. Dann, W.C. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 413547. F/O. Davenport, K.H. of Blakehurst, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 415724. W/O. Darcy, W.J. of Leederville, W.A.  
 Aus. 434896. F/Sgt. Dalglish, A.D. of Victoria.  
 Aus. 421984. W/O. Donoghue, B.W. of Bowral, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 425299. F/O. Evers, A.E. of Queensland.  
 Aus. 412634. W/O. Ferrari, P.M. of Trongie, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 439880. Sgt. Fry, J.A. of Sydney.  
 Aus. 426334. F/O. Flood, N.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 416330. F/O. Fisher, R.J. of Berri, S.A.  
 Aus. 425296. F/Sgt. Fox, I.M. of Corinda, Brisbane.  
 Aus. 416757. F/O. Fuller, M.G.J. of Kensington Park, S.A.  
 Aus. 412591. F/Sgt. Gracie, C.V. of Randwick, Sydney.

Aus. 408246. F/Sgt. Genders, E.H. of Launceston, Tasmania.  
 Aus. 429427. F/Lt. Codsall, H.M. of Toowoomba, Queensland.  
 Aus. 426085. F/O. Cilmore, J.E. of Allora, Queensland.  
 Aus. 417832. F/Sgt. Gramp, C.R. of Rowland, Flat, S.A.  
 Aus. 406644. F/O. Cannoway, R.C. of Geraldton, W.A.  
 Aus. 418993. F/O. Green, R.E. of Mentone, Victoria.  
 Aus. 421225. F/Sgt. Goodwin, A.C. of Cooma, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418335. W/O. Gyngeell, R.E. of Caulfield, Victoria.  
 Aus. 427642. F/O. Coode, D. of Subiaco, W.A.  
 Aus. 419615. F/O. Gates, C.G. of Brighton, Victoria.  
 Aus. 440184. Sgt. Gay, J.A.  
 Aus. 430832. F/Sgt. Hindle, H.E. of Hindleton, Victoria.  
 Aus. 435570. F/Sgt. Hetherington, R.E. of Rockhampton, Queensland.  
 Aus. 60765. F/Sgt. Howell, E.I. of Ryde, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 439837. Sgt. Mehri, J. of Candelo, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 425047. F/Sgt. Harris, R.F.J. of Sth. Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 421333. F/O. Higgins, B.L. of Yagga, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 4207439. F/O. Hannan, A.D. of Kensington, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417581. F/Sgt. Hodge, A.J. of Parkside, S.A.  
 Aus. 426746. F/Sgt. Hobson, P. of E. Brisbane.  
 Aus. 414666. W/O. Howard, D.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 23509. Sgt. Hewlett, H.F. of Nanango, Queensland.  
 Aus. 410888. W/O. Hancock, R.E. of Victoria.  
 Aus. 256. W/Cdr. Hampshire, J.W. of Sydney.  
 Aus. 425662. W/O. Horstman, B. of Oakley, Queensland.  
 Aus. 405687. W/O. Johnson, C.N. of Ingham, N. Queensland.  
 Aus. 416342. F/O. Jorgensen, D.E. of Glenelg, S.A.  
 Aus. 408152. F/O. Jennings, D.J. of Hobart, Tasmania.  
 Aus. 403030. W/O. Kent, J.W. of Strathfield, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417492. W/O. Kemp, R.G. of Streaky Bay, S.A.  
 Aus. 421284. F/Sgt. Kendall, J.H. of The Rock, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418432. W/O. Kidd, R.J. of Wonthaggi, Victoria.  
 Aus. 430882. F/Sgt. Kestley, M.P. of Yarraville, Victoria.  
 Aus. 403934. F/O. Little, D.A. of Brontie, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 426628. F/O. Lowry, T.R. of Chinchilla, Queensland.  
 Aus. 409418. F/O. Livermore, J.B.R. of Vermont, Victoria.  
 Aus. 416268. F/O. Linn, E.M. of Adelaide, S.A.  
 Aus. 418439. W/O. Liston, R.J. of Wentworth, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 424324. F/O. Morse, S.R. of Bellevue Hill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 403465. F/Lt. McKeough, N.N. of Krambach, via Taree, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418160. W/O. McLaren, L.M. of Port Melbourne.  
 Aus. 426143. W/O. McNameara, L.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 422608. W/O. Mead, R.S. of Ermington, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418757. F/Sgt. Murphy, L.A. of Brunswick, Victoria.  
 Aus. 403936. F/O. McCauley, V.J. of Nelligen, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 414296. F/O. McInnes, L.F. of Bundalberg, Queensland.  
 Aus. 426364. F/O. Martin, O.E. of Warwick, Queensland.  
 Aus. 420820. F/O. Miller, A. of Kensington, Sydney.

Aus. 417966. F/Sgt. McHardo, C.R. of Largs Bay, S.A.  
 Aus. 420903. F/O. McDermott, J.D. of Hurlstone Park, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 422222. F/Sgt. Mathers, H. of Greenwich, Sydney.  
 Aus. 25459. F/O. Martin, L.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 416353. F/O. McKenzie, W.V. of Naracoorte, S.A.  
 Aus. 425871. F/Sgt. Muir, J.E. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 436053. F/Sgt. May, K.W. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.  
 Aus. 429470. F/Sgt. Mathews, W.J. of Mundubberra, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 412420. W/O. McCabe, K.A. of Auburn, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 37244. F/Sgt. McCarthy, R.E. of Five Dock, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 424445. P/O. Nicholls, D.C. of Stockton, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 427538. F/Sgt. Nilan, W.W. of Perth, W.A.  
 Aus. 425543. W/O. Oldmeadow, J. of Brisbane.  
 Aus. 419004. W/O. O'Sullivan, J.W. of Melbourne.  
 Aus. 460275. S/Ldr. Oldham, R.R. of Cottesloe, W.A.  
 Aus. 427722. P/O. O'Brien, D. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.  
 Aus. 421457. W/O. Power, N. of Barbalara, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420265. F/O. Prentice, R.H. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 11455. Sgt. Pearce, A.N. of Seven Hills, N.S.W. (DFM)  
 Aus. 426386. W/O. Perry, H. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 420047. F/O. Pike, M.W. of Sydney, Australia.  
 Aus. 408508. F/O. Peake, F.O. of Kaniva, Victoria.  
 Aus. 402805. F/Lt. Peatty, I.V.R. of Granville, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 401590. F/O. Player, R.R. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
 Aus. 417975. F/O. Parry, A.G. of Ballelt, S.A.  
 Aus. 417076. F/O. Federick, O.W. of Angel Vale, S.A.  
 Aus. 416130. F/O. Roberts, H.D. of St. Kilda, Victoria.  
 Aus. 419162. F/Sgt. Roydhouse, D.J. of Geelong, Victoria.  
 Aus. 427350. F/O. Ramsay, J. of Leederville, W.A.  
 Aus. 422720. F/Sgt. Robinson, F.V. of Cremorne, Sydney.  
 Aus. 404037. F/Lt. Richmond, A.G.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 424614. F/O. Sorrell, F.N. of Rushcutters Bay, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 414873. F/O. Small, H.B. of Sandgate, Queensland.  
 Aus. 425763. W/O. Sellers, N.R. of Boonah, Queensland.  
 Aus. 423348. F/Sgt. Stephenson, K.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 410747. F/O. Sharp, J.E. of Hampdon, Victoria.  
 Aus. 418900. P/O. Southall, I.F. of Surrey Hills, Victoria.  
 Aus. 425064. W/O. Seeley, R.J. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 412852. W/O. Smith, J.S. of Parkes, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420696. W/O. Smith, C.P. of Summerhill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 413912. W/O. Stening, W.E. of Sydney.  
 Aus. 401630. F/O. Syme, F.M. of Melbourne.  
 Aus. 408708. W/O. Sloane, C.H. of Mulwala, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 434025. F/Sgt. Sanderson, D.J. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 414435. F/O. Studdon, J.J. of Loowong, Brisbane.  
 Aus. 404722. F/Lt. Sparks, H.J. of Roma, Queensland.

Aus. 419413. F/Sgt. Tyson, R.J.A. of Footscray, Victoria.  
Aus. 412487. W/O. Taylor, M.I. of Kentucky, N.S.W.  
Aus. 418211. F/O. Turnbull, H.H. of Toorak, Victoria.  
Aus. 423267. F/Sgt. Toose, G.L. of Boree Creek, N.S.W.  
Aus. 410585. P/O. Thompson, R.H. of Bunnaloo, N.S.W.  
Aus. 427488. F/Sgt. Wise, G.S. of Cottesloe, W.A.  
Aus. 422936. F/Sgt. Whyte, C.K. of Marellan, N.S.W.  
Aus. 410767. W/O. Wright, G.S. of Victoria.  
Aus. 414111. P/O. Warfield, R.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 426210. W/O. Williams, M. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
Aus. 428990. F/O. Wylie, N.A. of Alberton, S.A.  
Aus. 419103. F/O. Willis, E.B. of Ivanhoe, Victoria.  
Aus. 437052. F/Sgt. Walsh, L.J. of Forestville, S.A.  
Aus. 427710. F/O. Williams, A.E. of Cottesloe, W.A.  
Aus. 430528. Sgt. Wilkinson, A.C. of Parkville, Victoria.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

JANUARY, 1945

There were no sightings or contacts with U-boats or enemy aircraft during the month.

18th January, 1945 Three Sunderlands were lost during a gale. Two were driven from their moorings by a large merchant vessel, which had dragged its anchor, and sank shortly afterwards - one breaking up on the rocks. The third aircraft broke from its moorings and drifted ashore on to a mud bank, where it was boarded by W/Cdr. Hampshire and other members of the Squadron who were able to save all the valuable equipment.

STATISTICS.

Statistics from formation up to 31.1.45

Hours 16,285

Sorties 1,421

Miles 1,954,200

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

FEBRUARY, 1945.

No sightings or contacts with enemy submarines or aircraft were obtained by the Squadron during the month.

8th February, 1945. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. Acc. 406275  
W/Cdr. R.R. Oldham took over Command of the Squadron  
from W/Cdr. Hampshire.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 28.2.45.

Miles 1,973,160

Hours 16,443

Sorties 1,441

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.  
Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.

1st February, 1945

NOMINAL ROLL 461 SQUADRON

Aus. 422094 F/Sgt. Auld, J.W. of Enfield, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 422288 F/O. Alexander, R.R. of St. Arnaud, Victoria.  
 Aus. 434556 F/O. Anderson, J.J. of Queensland.  
 Aus. 422023 F/Sgt. Angus, K.G. of N.S.W.  
 Aus. 416818 W/O. Allen, E.D. of Croydon, S.A.  
 Aus. 418577 F/O. Allardice R.O. of Canterbury, Vic.  
 Aus. 413103 F/O. Buckman, H.W. of Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 401885 F/O. Bennett, C.H.T. of Balwyn, Victoria.  
 Aus. 420913 W/O. Brown, R.J. of Byron Bay, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 410444 F/O. Bremner, G.D. of Barwood, Victoria.  
 Aus. 417768 F/O. Bills, J.P. of Broken Hill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 423988 F/Sgt. Clarke, F.W. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420444 F/O. Cochrane, J.W.B. of Manly, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 410217 F/O. Creighton, J.W. of Thornbury, Victoria.  
 Aus. 426310 F/O. Cheers, K.G. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 426055 F/O. Croll, J.H. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 427442 F/Sgt. Coulter, J.R. of Inglewood, W.A.  
 Aus. 426052 F/O. Copland, D.A. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 419111 F/Sgt. Clough, L.R. of Rainbow, Victoria.  
 Aus. 425602 W/O. Clacher, L.W. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 418523 W/O. Claxton, R.O. of Chelsea, Victoria.  
 Aus. 57527 F/Sgt. Culley, G.D. of Peakhurst, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417569 F/Sgt. Dick, J. of Mt. Templeton, S.A.  
 Aus. 421251 W/O. Dana, W.C. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 415724 W/O. Darcey, W.J. of Leederville, W.A.  
 Aus. 434896 F/Sgt. Dalglish, A.D. of Victoria.  
 Aus. 421984 W/O. Donoghue, B.W. of Bowral, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 123140 F/Sgt. Dodd, P.J. Milmerian, Queensland.  
 Aus. 411011 F/O. Dunphy, J.W. of Annandale, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 425290 F/O. Evers, A.E. of Queensland.  
 Aus. 412634 W/O. Ferrari, P.M. of Trangie, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 439880 Sgt. Fry, J.A. of Sydney.  
 Aus. 426334 F/O. Flood, H.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 425296 F/Sgt. Fox, L.M. of Corinda, Brisbane.  
 Aus. 426757 F/O. Fuller, H.G.J. of Kensington Park, S.A.  
 Aus. 426075 W/O. Ford, J.C.W. of Bundeberg, Queensland.  
 Aus. 412591 F/Sgt. Gracie, G.V. of Randwick, Sydney.  
 Aus. 408246 F/Sgt. Genders, E.H. of Launceston, Tasmania.  
 Aus. 426005 F/O. Gilmore, J.E. of Allora, Queensland.  
 Aus. 417832 F/Sgt. Gramp, C.R. of Rowland, Flat, S.A.  
 Aus. 406644 F/O. Garnoway, R.G. of Geraldton, W.A.  
 Aus. 418393 F/O. Green, R.E. of Mentone, Victoria.  
 Aus. 421225 F/Sgt. Goodwin, A.G. of Coosa, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418835 W/O. Gyngeell, R.R. of Caulfield, Victoria.  
 Aus. 427642 F/O. Goode, D. of Subisco, W.A.  
 Aus. 419615 F/O. Gates, G.C. of Brighton, Victoria.  
 Aus. 439880 F/S. Gray, D. of Ashfield, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 34175 F/S. Gleeson, B.A. of Narrabery, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 430832 F/Sgt. Hindle, H.E. of Hindleton, Victoria.  
 Aus. 435570 F/Sgt. Hetherington, R.B. of Rockhampton, Queensland.  
 Aus. 60765 F/Sgt. Howell, E.L. of Hyde, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 439837 Sgt. Kehir, J. of Condelo, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 425847 F/Sgt. Harris, R.F.J. of South Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 421333 F/O. Higgins, D.L. of Wagga, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 207439 F/O. Hannon, A.D. of Kensington, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417581 F/Sgt. Hodge, A.J. of Parkside, S.A.  
 Aus. 426746 F/Sgt. Hobson, F. of E. Brisbane.  
 Aus. 414636 W/O. Howard, D.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 410868 W/O. Hancock, R.E. of Victoria.  
 Aus. 256 W/Odr. Hampshire, J.M. of Sydney.  
 Aus. 425662 W/O. Horstman, B. of Oakley, Queensland.  
 Aus. 405667 W/O. Johnson, G.H. of Ingham, Queensland.  
 Aus. 439724 F/S. Harris, R.H. of Newcastle, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 421276 F/O. Hulford, R.J. of Gootswandra, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 416342 F/O. Jorgensen, D.E. of Glenelg, S.A.  
 Aus. 62945 F/S. Jacobs, A.J. of Drummayne, N.S.W.

Aus. 403030 W/O. Kent, J.W. of Strathfield, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417492 W/O. Kemp, R.G. of Stresky Bay, S.A.  
 Aus. 421284 F/S. Kendall, J.M. of The Rock, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 413432 W/O. Kidd, R.J. of Wonthaggi, Victoria.  
 Aus. 430682 F/S. Keetley, M.P. of Yarrville, Victoria.  
 Aus. 403934 F/O. Little, D.A. of Brontic, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 426628 F/O. Lowry, F.W. of Chinchilla, Queensland.  
 Aus. 416268 F/O. Linn, E.M. of Adelaide, S.A.  
 Aus. 418439 W/O. Liston, B.J. of Wentworth, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 424324 F/O. Morse, S.R. of Bellevue Hill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 416160 W/O. McLaren, L.M. of Port Melbourne.  
 Aus. 426143 W/O. McManus, L.P. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 422608 W/O. Mead, R.S. of Ermington, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 418757 F/S. Murphy, L.A. of Brunswick, Victoria.  
 Aus. 403936 F/O. McCauley, V.J. of Helligan, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 426364 F/O. Martin, C.E. of Warwick, Queensland.  
 Aus. 420820 F/O. Miller, A. of Kensington, Sydney.  
 Aus. 417966 F/S. Miranda, G.R. of Largs Bay, S.A.  
 Aus. 420903 F/O. McDemott, J.D. of Hurstone Park, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 422222 F/S. Mathers, H. of Greenwich, Sydney.  
 Aus. 416353 F/O. McKennie, W.V. of Naracoorte, S.A.  
 Aus. 425871 F/S. Muir, J.E. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 436053 F/S. May, K.W. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.  
 Aus. 412420 W/O. McCabe, K.A. of Auburn, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 37244 F/S. McCarthy, R.H. of Five Dock, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 403223 F/O. Marks, H.O. of Manly, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 8210 F/S. Martin, A.L. of Adelaide, S.A.  
 Aus. 424780 F/S. Miller, R.J.M. of Kingsford, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 417874 Sgt. Moore, D.G. of Burnside, S.A.  
 Aus. 424445 F/O. Nicholls, D.C. of Stockton, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 427538 F/S. Nilsen, W.M. of Perth, W.A.  
 Aus. 400062 F/L. Noble, G.R. of Hawthorn, Vic.  
 Aus. 425543 W/O. Oldmeadow, J. of Brisbane.  
 Aus. 419004 W/O. O'Sullivan, J.W. of Melbourne.  
 Aus. 460275 S/L. Oldham, R.E. of Cottesloe, W.A.  
 Aus. 427722 F/O. O'Brien, D. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.  
 Aus. 421457 W/O. Power, N. of Darbarara, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420265 F/O. Prentice, R.H. of Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 11455 Sgt. Pearce A.W. of Seven Hills, N.S.W. (EMK)  
 Aus. 406508 F/O. Pecke, F.O. of Kaniva, Victoria.  
 Aus. 402805 F/L. Peatty, I.V.R. of Granville, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 401590 F/O. Payer, R.R. of Melbourne, Victoria.  
 Aus. 417975 W/O. Parry, A.C. of Hallett, S.A.  
 Aus. 417076 F/O. Federick, C.C. of Angel Vale, S.A.  
 Aus. 416130 F/O. Roberts, H.D. of St. Kilda, Victoria.  
 Aus. 419162 F/Sgt. Roydhouse, D.J. of Geelong, Victoria.  
 Aus. 427350 F/O. Ramsay, J. of Leederville, W.A.  
 Aus. 422720 F/S. Robinson, F.V. of Cremorne, Sydney.  
 Aus. 404037 F/L. Richmond, A.G.C. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 414542 W/O. Robertson, C.H. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 428076 F/O. Rose, K.E. of Launceston, Tas.  
 Aus. 410565 F/S. Ryan, J.P. of Coburg, Vic.  
 Aus. 424614 F/O. Scirell, F.W. of Roshoutters Bay, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 414573 F/O. Small, H.B. of Sandgate, Queensland.  
 Aus. 425763 W/O. Sellars, W.R. of Boonah, Queensland.  
 Aus. 410747 F/O. Sharp, J.E. of Hampden, Victoria.  
 Aus. 425064 W/O. Sealey, R.J. of Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Aus. 412852 W/O. Smith, J.S. of Perkes, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 420696 W/O. Smith, G.P. of Summerhill, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 413912 W/O. Stening, W.H. of Sydney  
 Aus. 401630 F/O. Syme, J.H. of Melbourne  
 Aus. 408708 W/O. Sloane, H. of Bulwala, N.S.W.  
 Aus. 434025 F/S. Sanderson, D.J. of Brisbane, Queensland  
 Aus. 414435 F/O. Studdon, J.J. of Loowong, Brisbane.  
 Aus. 404722 F/L. Sparks, R.J. of Ross, Queensland.  
 Aus. 436097 W/O. Shepherd, S. of Perth, W.A.

Aus. 419413	F/Sgt.	Tyson, R.J.A. of Footscray, Victoria.
Aus. 412457	V/O.	Taylor, M.L. of Kentucky, N.S.W.
Aus. 427488	F/Sgt.	Wise, G.S. of Cottesloe, W.A.
Aus. 422336	F/Sgt.	Whte, C.R. of Marellan, N.S.W.
Aus. 410767	W/O.	Wright, C.S. of Victoria.
Aus. 414111	F/O.	Warfield, R.G. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 426210	V/O.	Williams, K. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 428990	F/O.	Wylie, N.A. of Alberton, S.A.
Aus. 427710	F/O.	Williams, A.E. of Cottesloe, W.A.
Aus. 430528	Sgt.	Wilkinson, A.C. of Parkville, Victoria.
Aus. 426198	F/S.	Warren, J.E. of Winton, Queensland.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

FEBRUARY, 1945.

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No sightings or contacts with enemy submarines or aircraft were obtained by the Squadron during the month.

8th February, 1945. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. Aus. 406275  
W/Cdr. R.R. Oldham took over Command of the Squadron from W/Cdr. Hampshire.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 28.2.45.

Miles 1,973,160  
Hours 16,443  
Sorties 1,441

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.  
Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

MARCH, 1945.

No enemy aircraft or submarines were sighted during the month but on 8.3.45 smoke from a possible 'Schnorkel' was sighted by Aus. 420265 P/Lt. R.H. Prentice and crew and two depth charges were dropped. No results were seen.

An 'Australian Rules' football match was played in London against R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters. 461 Squadron succeeded in winning fairly easily.

STATISTICS.

Statistics from formation up to 31.3.45

Sorties 1,493  
Hours 16,989  
Miles 2,033,680

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.  
Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 4.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd.)

APRIL, 1945

In addition to Anti-U-boat patrols, ten Convoy Escorts and six Special Recon sorties were carried out during the month. The Special recones were with naval forces operating off the French coast against German pockets of resistance.

A U-boat attacked on 30.9.42 by Aus. 403860 F/O. H.C. Cooke (now Commanding Officer of 10 Squadron) has now been credited to the squadron as 'probably seriously damaged'.

By the end of the month the Squadron was completely re-armed with Mark V Sunderlands (Pratt & Whitney engines).

25th April, 1945. The Squadron celebrated its 3rd birthday. Sports were held during the day and a dance in the evening.

27th April, 1945. AIR SEA RESCUE. Aus. 427642 F/Lt. D. Goode and crew saw a Sunderland of No. 225 Squadron crash into the sea and catch fire. The aircraft sank in three minutes leaving seven survivors in a dinghy. F/Lt. Goode led escort Corvettes to the spot and the survivors were picked up.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.4.45.

Hours 17,744  
Sorties 1,558  
Miles 2,129,280

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 5.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

MAY, 1945

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8th May, 1945. VICTORY IN EUROPE. Although today brought the end of the war in Europe the Squadron continued with operational sorties throughout the month.

10th May, 1945. U-BOAT SURRENDERS. While on Convoy Escort, a fully surfaced U-boat flying a black flag, was sighted and photographed by Aus. 418577 P/Lt. R.C. Allardice and crew. The surrendering U-boat was escorted by other aircraft.

11th May, 1945. TWO U-BOATS SURRENDER. Aus. 428288 P/Lt. R.R. Alexander, D.F.C. and crew sighted two surrendering U-boats. The first was escorted by other aircraft but P/Lt. Alexander was instructed to escort the second U-boat. This was done until the arrival of an Escort Group - 3 corvettes.

16th May, 1945. ACCIDENT. When taking off on a test flight, Sunderland captained by Aus. 424611 P/O. F.N. Sorrell, swung violently, nosed in and partially sank. P/O. Sorrell was thrown through the window into the sea. Cpl. Pearce, ground staff, was killed, P/O. Sorrell and Aus. 430528 P/Sgt. A. Wilkinson were seriously injured and Aus. 425602 W/O. L.W. Glaser was hurt.

Up to the end of April the Squadron had completed six months flying without an avoidable accident and was commended by the A.O.C. in C, Coastal Command in a letter to Air Ministry.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 8.5.45.

Sorties 1,609  
Hours 18,634  
Miles 2,236,080

Enemy shipping destroyed 7, damaged 5.  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

JUNE, 1945.

14th June, 1945. The Squadron was withdrawn from the line today and only one operational sortie was flown this month. This was on the 18th when an unsuccessful Air Sea Rescue search was made for a Liberator reported down in the Atlantic.

The following message of thanks was addressed to No. 461 Squadron by the A.O.C. in C, Coastal Command: -

"The successful conclusion of the U-boat war has resulted in the rolling-up of many Squadrons and the departure of personnel to new units and new tasks. The departure of personnel of No. 461 Squadron recalls many gallant operations of the Squadron against U-boats and enemy aircraft in the Bay of Biscay area and the Atlantic battle, and I want to thank you for the splendid efforts of the last three years, and to wish you all the best of luck in the future."

Since the withdrawal of the Squadron, aircrew personnel have rapidly been posted to Holding Units and ground staff to various other Stations.

29th June, 1945. The Commanding Officer left the Squadron, leaving the Adjutant, P/Lt. K.S. McCaffrey in charge of the final winding up of the Squadron.

Statistics. Statistics from formation up to 8.5.45.

Hours 18,649      Sorties 1,610      Miles 2,237,830  
Enemy shipping destroyed 7      Damaged 5  
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 7, damaged 8.

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MAY, 1945.

1st May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Twenty-three aircraft dropped food in the Rotterdam area. Great enthusiasm was shown by the inhabitants of Rotterdam.

2nd May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Twenty-three aircraft again dropped food supplies near Rotterdam. Flags were exhibited by the population.

3rd May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Twenty-four aircraft dropped food supplies in the Rotterdam area.

4th May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Ten aircraft dropped food supplies in the Rotterdam area.

5th May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Ten aircraft dropped food supplies on Leiden Airfield, Holland. The words "Thank you boys" were seen in the next field to the dropping area.

7th May, 1945. FOOD DROPPING. Twenty-eight aircraft dropped food supplies in the Rotterdam area.

8th May, 1945. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aun. 404296 W/O. L. A. Kent was gazetted today.

VICTORY IN EUROPE. The end of the war in Europe was celebrated on the Station, and the Station Commander thanked all aircrew and ground staff personnel for their excellent achievements.

10th May, 1945. PRISONERS OF WAR. Twelve aircraft operated and eleven brought back 26 prisoners of war from Brussels. One aircraft had a taxing accident and had to be left at Brussels overnight.

11th May, 1945. PRISONERS OF WAR. Fourteen aircraft brought back a total of 335 prisoners of war from Brussels.

22nd May, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aun. 435786 F/Lt. L. W. Denton  
Aun. 439259 F/O. R. Cassie  
Aun. 429947 F/O. V. C. Grimmett  
Aun. 437371 F/O. H. Hendrick

25th May, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aun. 42582 F/O. J. J. McDade  
Aun. 433407 F/O. D. J. McKay  
F/O. F. B. G. Delorie  
F/O. J. L. Fogson  
F/O. D. Easton  
F/O. J. L. Martin  
F/O. J. Blakey

Operational training was carried out during the month.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 8.5.45.

Miles 5,353,482  
Hours 34,038  
Sorties 6,109  
Tons 24,872

Enemy aircraft destroyed 7, probably destroyed 6, damaged 3.

History of No. 460 Squadron (contd).

JUNE, 1945.

4/7th June, 1945. During a cross country flight over France, Aus. 16696 P/Sgt. J. Thomas was presumed to have baled out as he was found to be missing when his aircraft returned and no further news has been received of him.

29th June, 1945. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 427044 P/O. E.F. Reid was gazetted today.

Operational training was carried out during the month, including "Post Mortem" exercises.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X

JULY, 1945.

6th July, 1945. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 413066 P/O. C.F. Woraley was gazetted today.

16th July, 1945. FLYING ACCIDENT. During a Bomber Fighter Affiliation exercise, Lancaster captained by P/Lt. Nettle caught fire when a practice bomb fell from the rack into the bomb bay and exploded. The pilot, Aus. 436360 P/Lt. M.C. Nettle, the air bomber Aus. 429727 P/O. W.J. Morrow, the Flight Engineer Aus. 437799 P/Sgt. R.K. Sloan baled out and landed safely. The rear gunner Aus. 55354 P/Sgt. R.J. Rogers also baled out but fell into a deep artificial lake and was drowned. The wireless operator Aus. 430318 W/O. K.B. Quinn and the navigator Aus. 433171 P/O. C.E. Johnson were unable to bale out and were killed when the aircraft crashed.

17th July, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 428088 P/Lt. H.J. Gray  
P/O. G.A. Bassant

18th July, 1945. All surplus and tour expired aircraft left for R.A.F. Station Gamston Holding Unit.

20th July, 1945. Official news was received that as from today 460 will be a 2 Flight Squadron.

AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 427825 P/O. K.F. Gutteridge  
Aus. 433530 P/O. B.J. Mattingley  
Aus. 429727 P/O. W.J. Morrow  
Aus. 15519 P/O. P.L.J. Page  
Aus. 427961 P/O. W.R. Utting  
Aus. 426023 P/O. F.H. Baynton  
Aus. 427337 W/O. R.S. Leighton  
Aus. 418475 P/O. J.L. Williams  
P/O. R. Henderson  
P/O. J.H. Godsavage  
P/O. H. Harris

21st July, 1945. 460 Squadron is to be transferred from No. 1 to No. 5 Group for inclusion in "Tiger" Force and is to move to R.A.F. Station East Kirkby.

History of No. 460 Squadron (contd).

JULY, 1945 (contd).

23rd July, 1945. VISIT. The A.O.C. No. 1 Group visited the Station and wished the Squadron goodbye and good luck.

25th July, 1945. MOVE. The advance party moved to East Kirby.

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. Aus. 400498 W/Cdr. P.H. Swan, D.S.O., D.F.C., took over command of the Squadron from W/Cdr. Cowan.

AUGUST, 1945.

15th August, 1945. VJ DAY. News was received that the Japanese had surrendered.

17th August, 1945. Notified by No. 5 Group that all training for "Tiger" Force is to be discontinued.

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

During the month, several trips were made to Bari, Italy, to bring back service personnel on leave to the U.K.

13th September, 1945. Three aircraft captained by the Commanding Officer and two Flight Commanders went to Berlin on a sight-seeing trip.

21st September, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Service Order: - Aus. 432810 S/Ldr. J.R. Henderson, DFC

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 425823 F/Lt. H.H. Bayliss  
Aus. 427678 F/Lt. R.A. Chopping  
Aus. 419983 F/Lt. A. Dowling  
Aus. 428428 F/Lt. D.A. Goudie  
Aus. 427789 F/O. D.R. Arrowmith  
F/Lt. L.L. Pearce

22nd September, 1945. Notification received that the Squadron was to be withdrawn from operations.

25th September, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 427819 F/O. K.S. Frearson  
Aus. 427552 F/O. A.J. Rose  
Aus. 428030 F/O. R.E. Stringer  
Aus. 430106 F/O. A.J. Ted  
Aus. 437117 F/O. G.L. Hande  
F/O. A.W. Jenkinson  
F/O. J.H. Latham

Notification received that the Squadron is to disband on 10.10.45

History of No. 460 Squadron (contd).

OCTOBER, 1945.

2nd October, 1945. LAST FLIGHT. The last flight of the Squadron. The Commanding Officer flew a Lancaster to Amiens to obtain photographs of the Australian war memorial.

4th October, 1945. The Squadron held its farewell parade which was attended and addressed by Air Vice Marshal Wrigley, A.O.C. R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters.

5th October, 1945. The first party - 63 of the Squadron personnel - proceeded to R.A.F. Geaston.

25th October, 1945. F/Lt. Giles, Adjutant, last member of the Squadron to leave, was posted to Geaston.

26th October, 1945. AWARDS.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 437017 F/O. A.R. Sullivan

Distinguished Service Order: - Aus. 556 W/Cdr. M.G. Cowan

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 416423 S/Ldr. C.C. Gardner  
Aus. 420256 F/Lt. C.A.S. Patterson  
Aus. 425083 F/Lt. T.V. Watts  
Aus. 408800 F/Lt. G.T. Crook

NOVEMBER 1945

6th November, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 432472 F/O. W.K. Bennett  
Aus. 427190 F/O. K.W. Finlay  
Aus. 426411 F/O. A. Smith  
Aus. 422995 F/O. A.S. Whitmarsh

16th November, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 427805 F/O. D.J. Creeper  
Aus. 432198 F/Lt. D.A. Jolly  
Aus. 417591 F/O. R.D. Marshall  
Aus. 425872 F/O. B. Mullins  
Aus. 428279 F/O. B.S. Mulcahy

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