

[1/334]

HISTORICAL RECORDS
=====

461 SQUADRON
=====

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

=====

OPEN

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AWM64

[1/334]

BY AIR MAIL

ENCLOSURE 1A

18/115/Air/11976

SECRET

12/E/43

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE. AUSTRALIA.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron : R.A.A.F.

Forwarded herewith for historical records is a brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F., from the date of formation until 31/3/43, compiled from the Operations Records Books.

2. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.B.T.
(W.B. TART),
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

BY FERRY COMMAND

2A

184/115/Air/12134

20/5/43.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron : R. A. A. F.

Forwarded herewith for Historical
Records is copy of document re the
formation of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

Wgt WBT

(W.B. TAIT)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

461 San

28

COPY

POSTAGRAM

CC/S. 7407/5.

Commonwealth of Australia, Air Liaison Office, Date 7th April, 1942.

Copy to:- Air Ministry D.T.O.
Headquarters, No. 19 Group.
Air Ministry D.O.N.C.

From: Headquarters, Coastal Command.

SECRET

Formation of No. 461 R.A.A.F. (Sunderland)
Squadron.

Authority has been given for the formation of No. 461 R.A.A.F. (Sunderland) Squadron, which it is proposed to base at Mount Batten, for the time being.

2. To start this Squadron it is recommended that a nucleus of aircrew and maintenance personnel should be transferred from No. 10 R.A.A.F. Squadron, which squadron is relatively well off for crews, having 36 pilots, of which 14 are captains, and a further 7 are qualified by day.

3. In these circumstances, it is recommended that S/Ldr. Burrage should be posted to assume temporary command of No. 461 Squadron, until such a time as an Australian Wing Commander can be made available. It is also recommended that as many of the B.A.T.S aircrew personnel, and ground staff as can be released without impairing the efficiency of No. 10 Squadron shall also be transferred to No. 461 Squadron.

4. In making this representation it is pointed out that this Command has recently released three Australian Flying Boat Captains from R.A.F. Squadrons to return to Australia, which has left the Command singularly short of experienced Flying Boat Pilots.

5. With this proposed transfer of personnel from No. 10 Squadron, No. 461 Squadron will be in a position to accept the few Sunderland aircraft which, it is understood, are ready for allotment at an early date, and commence operational crew training.

6. Since the O.T.U. will only be able to provide this Squadron with about one crew per month it is recommended that experienced Australian aircrew personnel now employed in land-plane squadrons should be posted to 461 Squadron, and converted to Flying Boats within the scope of the Squadron.

It is understood that there are a number of such personnel in the U.K.

7. The necessity of forming this Squadron as quickly as possible cannot be over-emphasised.

Originator's
Signature:

(Signed) A.M. Garry
Group Captain.

Time of
Origin.

20

SUNDERLAND AIRCRAFT OF NO.10 SQUADRON
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Up till 31/12/1942.

<u>Aircraft No.</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Date taken on Charge</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Date taken off Charge</u>
N. 9048	A.	11. 9. 39.	Burnt out in hanger during air raid on Plymouth	27.11.40.
N. 9049	B.	19. 9. 39.	Destroyed at moorings at Malta during an air raid	10. 5. 41.
N. 9050	D.	3.10. 39.	Handed over to 95 Squadron,R.A.F.	14. 3. 41.
P. 9600	E.	27.10. 39.	Handed over to No.228 Squadron,RAF.	20.11. 41.
P. 9601	F.	3.11. 39.	Burnt out at moorings during an air raid - Plymouth	27.11. 40.
P. 9602	G.	13.11. 39.	Crashed on landing at Oban	2. 9. 40.
P. 9603.	H.	28.11. 39.	Crashed on landing at base.	24. 6. 41.
P. 9604	J.	15.12. 39.	Handed over to 201 Squadron,R.A.F.	4. 11. 41.
P. 9605	K.	21.12. 39.	Handed over to No. 4 O.T.U.	14. 3. 42.

Aircraft No.	Letter	Date taken on Charge	Remarks	Date taken off Charge
T. 9047	L.	18.10.40.	Aircraft damaged on landing at sea during an air sea rescue operation. Aircraft sunk by Destroyer.	9. 7. 41.
T. 9071	M	19.12.40.	Handed over to 43 Group	9. 8. 41.
T. 9075	N.	14. 4.41.	Crashed while on patrol	28. 4. 41.
W. 3979	Q.	19. 6.41.	Forced landed at sea and was damaged. Aircraft finally sunk by gunfire from Destroyer	1. 3. 42.
W. 3983.	R.	27.7.41.		
W. 3984	S.	1.8.41.		
W. 3985	T.	11.8.41.		
W. 3986	U	28.8.41.		
T. 9072	V.	29.9.41.	Crashed on making a forced landing	15.12.41.
W. 3994	X	20.11.41.	Did not return from patrol	5.12.41.
W. 3993	W	23.11.41.		
L. 2163	P	June,41.	Handed over to 228 Squadron,R.A.F.	16. 12. 41.

Aircraft No.	Letter	Date taken on charge	Remarks	Date taken off charge
W. 3999	Y	5. 1. 42.	Attacked and shot down by an "Arado" (196)	21. 6. 42.
W. 4004	Z	7. 2. 42.		
W. 4019	A	18L 2. 42.	Did not return from patrol	9. 8. 42.
W. 4020	B	8. 3. 42.	Handed over to No.43 Group	July, 1942.
T. 9110	C	7. 7. 42		
W. 6054	D	29. 8. 42.	Crashed on landing at Base on return from Gibraltar	12. 11. 42.
DV. 969	E.	6. 9. 42.		
DP. 177	F.	24.11. 42.		

3A

184/115/Air.

SECRET

8/6/43.

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.,
R.A.F. Station,
Pembroke Dock,
S. Wales.

Photographs recently lent to
Flying Officer S.T. Wright of the
Public Relations Branch of this
Headquarters are returned herewith.

(W.B. TARR)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

Please OKED
Short Jan

44

PLEASE RETURN.

184/115/Air

9/6/43.

Messrs. Short Bros. Ltd.,
20, Berkeley Square,
W.1.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to the remarkable incident which occurred at a Sunderland flying-boat station on May 29, 1943, when a Sunderland was successfully put down on land, it is understood that a film of its landing was made at the time, and that the film is passing into your possession.

If that is so, it would be appreciated if suitable "stills" from the film were made available to the Public Relations branch of this Headquarters, for a two-fold purpose:-

- (a) For publicity purposes, such as publication with details in British and Australian newspapers or magazines; and
- (b) For historical records of the Royal Australian Air Force.

W.B.T.

(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

AWARDED FIRST PRIZE AERO CLUB EXHIBITION 1907 FOR EXCELLENCE OF CONSTRUCTION

TELEGRAMS
"SEAPLANES" ROCHESTER
"TESTED" PHONE LONDON.

TELEPHONES
CHATHAM 2261.
HAYFAIR 2541.



57A
5000
BENTLEY'S
A.C. 25' EDN
BENTLEY'S SECOND
WORKS
ROCHESTER,
KENT

DIRECTORS
SR FREDERICK HEATON
CHAIRMAN
P. G. STONE CLARK
MANAGING DIRECTOR
The R. Hon. LORD KIMBELD, P.C.
WILLIAM BRAMHAM
SR NIGEL CAMPBELL
ARNOLD J. ROMER

Short Brothers (Rochester & Bedford) Ltd.
Aeronautical Engineers.



*20, Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.*

PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR
REPLY TO THE FIRM
AND QUOTE REFERENCE

LO.2009

M/NHG.

184/115/Air.

18th June, 1913.

Sq/Ldr. W.B. Tart,
Royal Australian Air Force,
Overseas Headquarters,
Kodak House,
63, Kingsway,
W.C.2.

Dear Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 9th June (received at this office this morning), and have to advise you that we are in touch with our Works in connection with the matter outlined therein, and will communicate with you further in due course.

Yours faithfully,
SHORT BROTHERS (R & B) LIMITED.

A. Mayer



BY AIR MAIL .

6A

184/115/Air/12871

22/6/43.

S E C R E T

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters
letter 184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of
No. 461 Squadron for April and May, 1943,
compiled from the Operations Records
Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.B. Tart
(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

APRIL, 1943.

APRIL 10th, 1943. ATTACK BY BULKY SHIPPING. Sunderland captained by Ans. 400656 F/O. Marrows located enemy convoy of one merchant vessel and four escorts which opened fire at extreme range. Two Ju.88's approached from over convoy but Sunderland gained cloud cover. There was no engagement with the Ju.88's and the Sunderland returned safely to base.

APRIL 11th, 1943. W/Cdr. D.L.G. Douglas, D.F.C. assumed temporary command of the Station while Group Captain Wigglesworth, A.F.C. was on leave.

APRIL 15th, 1943. Ans. 403725 F/Lt. Dods and crew located dinghy with eight occupants. Supplies were dropped and Sunderland orbited over dinghy until relieved by a Catalina.

APRIL 21st, 1943. MOVE TO PEMBROKE DOCK. The advanced party of the Squadron, together with heavy equipment, proceeded to Pembroke Dock.

APRIL 29th, 1943. U-BOAT SUNK. While on anti-submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Ans. 405404 F/O. Gipps sighted a U-Boat on the surface five miles on the starboard bow. U-boat was attacked with six depth charges, sank horizontally, then stern emerged and disappeared vertically. Several sailors were seen in the water.

This was F/O. Gipps first operational sortie as captain of a Sunderland and will probably be credited as a definite kill to the Squadron.

NOTE. Flying hours for anti-submarine patrols this month almost doubled those of March and other flying showed an increase.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd).

MAY, 1943.

The month of May was the most outstanding month for the Squadron since its formation.

MAY 1st, 1943. U-BOAT ATTACKED. Aus. 400297 F/Lt. E.C. Smith and crew attacked a submerging U-boat with depth charges but no results were observed.

MAY 2nd, 1943. U-BOAT SUNK. F/Lt. E.C. Smith and crew attacked and sank an enemy U-boat in the Bay of Biscay.

MAY 3rd, 1943. U-BOAT ATTACKED. Another attack on an enemy U-boat was made by Aus. 402119 F/O. Baird and crew. Depth charges were dropped but no results were observed. Sunderland was then attacked by a Ju.88 but managed to gain cloud cover.

MAY 14th, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. While on patrol F/Lt. Smith and crew were attacked by four Ju.88s. Hits were scored on the Sunderland and Sgt. Barrow suffered a flesh wound in his thigh.

MAY 15th, 1943. A "Wings for Victory" parade was held. Station and Squadron personnel led by the Station W.A.A.F. band marched from Pembroke Dock to Pembroke where the salute was taken by S/Ldr. S.R.G. Wood, D.F.C.

MAY 16th, 1943. AWARD. F/Lt. E.C. Smith received the immediate award of the D.F.C.

MAY 17th, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Aircraft captained by Aus. 404944 F/Lt. J.C.F. Weatherlake was attacked by 6 Ju.88s for 30 minutes. Sunderland was extensively damaged by machine gun fire and cannon shells but none of the crew were injured. Two Ju's had black smoke pouring from them.

MAY 24th, 1943. EPIPHANY DAY. Station and Squadron personnel attended a Church parade.

MAY 25th, 1943. AWARDS. Aus. 405860 F/Lt. H.G. Cooke, Aus. 3932 F/Lt. T.A. Egerton and F/O. H. Evans have been awarded the D.F.C.

MAY 28th, 1943. ATTRIBUTED RESCUE. When Aus. 403725 F/Lt. Dods and crew attempted to land and pick up six survivors of a Whitley in a dingy, the Sunderland broke up and F/Lt. Dods was killed instantly. The rest of the crew got into a dingy - including F/O. R. de V. Gipps who was seriously injured. They spent nearly fourteen hours in the dingy before they were picked up.

MAY 29th, 1943. RESCUE. Aus. 500841 F/O. Singleton and crew landed and picked up the crew of the Sunderland which crashed yesterday. Survivors were taken on board where they remained until picked up by a Destroyer, together with dispensable members of F/O. Singleton's crew.

115

MA

AWARDED FIRST PRIZE AERO CLUB EXHIBITION 1908 "FOR EXCELLENCE OF CONSTRUCTION"

TELEGRAMS:
"SEAPLANES" ROCHESTER.
"TESTED" FIGURE, LONDON.

TELEPHONES:
CHATHAM 2261.
MAYFAIR 2541.



COBBS
BENTLEYS
A.B.C. 5th EDN
BENTLEYS SECOND
WORKS:
ROCHESTER,
KENT.

DIRECTORS
MR. FREDERICK HEATON
CHAIRMAN
P. G. STONE CLARK
MANAGING DIRECTOR
The Rt. Hon. LORD ASHFIELD, P.C.
WILLIAM BRAPHAM
MR. NIGEL CAMPBELL
ARNOLD J. KOEHLER

Short Brothers (Rochester & Redford) Ltd.
Aeronautical Engineers.



20, Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR
REPLY TO THE FIRM
AND QUOTE REFERENCE
LO. 2009.
M/NHG.

22nd June, 1943.

Sq/Ldr. W.B. Tart,
Royal Australian Air Force,
Overseas Headquarters,
Kodak House,
63, Kingsway,
W.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Further to your letter of the 9th instant, please see the attached letter received from our Works which is self explanatory.

Perhaps you would kindly let me know what action you are taking so that when we receive the film, we can let you have suitable stills.

Yours faithfully,
SHORT BROTHERS (R & B) LIMITED.

R. K. Mayer

ENCL.:



4B
SHORT BROTHERS (R & B) LTD.,

P.O. Box. No. 15 R.

ROCHESTER, Kent.

19th June, 1943.

Captain A.Mayer,
Messrs Short Bros.Ltd.,
20, Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

Dear Mayer,

In reply to your letter of yesterday, reference, relative to the request you have received from S/L. Tart, regarding the incident of the "Sunderland" landing on an airfield, the Overseer received a letter regarding this from W/C. Douglas, R.A.F. Station, Pembroke Dock.

In this letter W/C. Douglas stated that they had a short film taken of the incident and would be pleased to loan it to us.

The Overseer has stated that he would be pleased to receive the film but so far it has not been received. As soon as it becomes available we will arrange to take suitable stills from it.

In the meantime, if Squadron Leader Tart would prefer to write direct to Pembroke Dock, he may obtain the film before it is despatched to our Overseer.

Yours faithfully,
p.p.SHORT BROTHERS (R & B) LIMITED.

84

SECRET

184/115/Air

23/6/42

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.,
R.A.F. Station,
PEMERCK DOCK,
SOUTH WALES.

Attached are copies of letters from Messrs. Short Brothers on stills from a film of a Sunderland landing on an airfield.

2. Would you please advise whether it would be more practicable to obtain these stills from you or from Short Brothers? The correspondence does not make clear what is the present position.

W.B.TRT

(W.B.TRT),
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

184/115/Air.

25/6/43.

SECRET

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
R.A.F. Station,
Pembroke Dock,
South Wales.

UNIT HISTORIES

Pilot Officer W.H. Newnham has been appointed to the Public Relations Branch to act as officer-in-charge of historical records. His duties will include the collection and correlation of all information concerning R.A.A.F. Squadrons and personnel in Great Britain so that an adequate and comprehensive Official History of the R.A.A.F. may be written after the war.

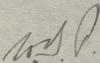
2. Much valuable information has already been received from the perusal and extraction from the Squadron's Operational Records Books. From these, Daily Operational Narratives are compiled showing how each operation dovetails in with Group and Command activity.

3. It is suggested, however, that a member of your Squadron be detailed to write the history of the Squadron, with particular emphasis on its background, atmosphere, change of location, personalities, and achievements - in brief, a history covering all sides of the squadron, but particularly those aspects which can only be written by a person with an intimate knowledge of the squadron.

4. This is already being done, largely through the enthusiasm of particular individuals, in several squadrons both in United Kingdom and Middle East. It is hoped each squadron will follow this lead as the inner story of the Squadron is something which no one from Headquarters will have time or knowledge to write.

5. It is desired to assist in every way, however, and Pilot Officer Newnham will visit the Squadron within the next few weeks to discuss the matter further with you and with

member appointed to do the job. It is hoped in this way to instigate the writing of a Unit history full of life and colour, and which will be of value to the Nation as well as an intensely interesting document to everyone who has helped establish the fine reputation of the squadron.



(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

184/115/Air

S E C R E T

8/7/43

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.,
R.A.F. Station,
PEMBROKE DOCK,
SOUTH WALES.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR HISTORICAL RECORDS

It is requested that this Headquarters be supplied with two copies, size 6" x 8", of each of the following photographs for Historical Records purposes.

FDG 149
FDG 150
FDG 271
FDG 272

W. B. Tart
(W. B. TART),
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

SECRET

No. 461 Squadron.,

R.A.A.F. E *11. A.*

Ref :- 461/S.103/AIR.

11th July, 1943.

Air Officer Commanding.,
R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters.,
Kodak House., 63 Kingsway.,
LONDON. W.C.2.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR HISTORICAL RECORDS.

Reference to your 184/115/AIR ^{10/11} dated
8.7.43, enclosed please find photographs as
requested. Also included are 2 copies
each of PDG. 307 and PDG. 308 which are further
photographs which have been taken and you may
like to include in your records.

K. S. McCaffrey, Lt.
for Squadron Leader T/Commanding.
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

ACTION COPY TO *S.O.P.R.*
ON FILE NUMBER *184/115/*
air.

Photographs detached & filed.

smk
— 14/7/43.

SECRET

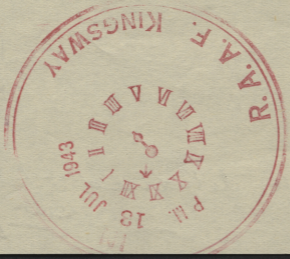
No. 101 Squadron
R.A.A.F.
11th July 1943

Ref: 101/101

Officer Commanding
R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters
Kuala Lumpur, Singapore
Reference: 101/101

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR HISTORICAL RECORD

Reference to your 101/101 dated 2.7.43, enclosed please find photographs as requested. Also included are 2 copies each of P26, 207 and P29, 208 which are further photographs which have been taken and you may like to include in your records.



Squadron Leader T. Commins
101 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

P.R.2.

Attached as requested is the squadron
history of 461 squadron.

H.Q.C.C.
2.7.43.

S/has Tart.

for this.

PR2
6.7.43.

ENCLOSURE 12A

Write to 461
re this history
forward to AB.

I believe you asked

J Drabble
Press Officer

The pilots found a ship of between 1,500 and 2,000 tons, a tug boat, and four E or R-boats which had apparently just left Dunkirk and were heading towards Ostend.

The first two Typhoon bombers selected the merchant vessel and an escort for attack. Strikes were seen as the result of their cannon fire, but the pilots were unable to observe the effect of their bombing owing to the intensity of anti-aircraft fire from all vessels.

Immediately afterwards two other Typhoons bombed and cannoned the convoy and reported hits on the merchant vessel, the tug boat, and one of the escorts.

One of our aircraft is missing.

SECRET

ENCLOSURE 13A

184/115/Air/15617

22/7/43.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron : R. A. A. F.

Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron from its formation until 2/6/43, written by Public Relations Branch of R.A.F. Coastal Command.

2. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.B.T.
(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

IMPORTANT

ENCLOSURE 14A

184/115/Air/13618

22/7/43.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for the month of June, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.B. TART
(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

History of No. 461 Squadron (contd.)JUNE, 1943.

JUNE 2nd, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Sunderland captained by F/Lt. Walker was attacked by eight Ju. 88s for 45 minutes. Three of the Ju. 88s were definitely destroyed, two were probably destroyed and the remaining three were damaged. F/Sgt. E.C.E. Miles, the flight engineer was killed, Aus. 403778 F/Lt. K.M. Simpson, the navigator, was wounded and Aus. 407499 F/Sgt. Goode, R, the rear gunner, was rendered temporarily unconscious. F/Lt. Walker flew the Sunderland back on three engines.

This action was described by the Secretary of State of Air as "Outstandingly gallant and successful."

Congratulations were also received from the Air Officer Commanding, Coastal Command and the Chief of Air Staff.

AWARDS. Immediate awards of the D.S.O. to F/Lt. Walker, captain, D.F.C. to F/O. Simpson, navigator, and D.F.M. to rear and midship gunners, F/Sgt. Goode and F/Sgt. Fuller.

JUNE 3rd, 1943. AIR SEA RESCUE. While on Anti-submarine patrol F/Lt. Weatherlake sighted a dinghy with three survivors of a glider which had come down in the sea. He brought a corvette to the scene to pick them up.

JUNE 4th, 1943. ROYAL VISIT. The Duke of Gloucester visited the squadron and spoke to the crews and personnel, being particularly interested in F/Lt. Walker.

JUNE 7th, 1943. BURIAL. Sgt. Miles was buried with full military honours.

VISIT. The Air Officer Commanding, Coastal Command, Air Marshal J.C. Slessor, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C. visited the Squadron.

184/115/Air.

26/7/43.

SECRET

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
R.A.F. Station,
Pembroke Dock,
South Wales.

UNIT HISTORIES

Further to our letter of the 26th June concerning the writing of No. 461 Squadron history, we have since received a brief history of the squadron from Headquarters Coastal Command who state that they had been requested to forward it to this headquarters.

2. As we have made no such request, it was thought possible that the application may have emanated from you under the impression that it would fulfil our purpose.
3. If that is so, we should like to repeat what we wrote in our earlier letter; that we already possess a fairly comprehensive history covering the operational side of the squadron and that our aim is a more intimate and personal history, laying emphasis on the non-operational side of the squadron's activities, written by one of the 'veterans' of No. 461.
4. As the history we have received from Coastal Command does not fulfil these requirements, and we are in doubt as to whether you may have requested its despatch to us, could we have your advice please? Particularly in regard to appointment a member of the squadron to co-operate with this Branch in writing an Unit History as outlined in our 184/115/Air,

W.B. TART

(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

184/115/14385.

23/8/43.

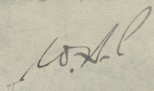
SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDSNo. 461 Squadron : R. A. A. F.

Further to this Headquarters' letter 104/115/Air/11976,
dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
for the month of July, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records
Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.


(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

17A.

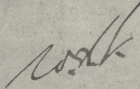
184/115/Air.

SECRET

30/8/43.

Aus.20264 Sgt. B. MacDougall,
461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
R.A.F. Station,
PEMBROKE DOCK, S. WALES.

Enclosed are two negatives which
you lent to Public Relations Section of this
Headquarters to take off prints for historical
record purposes. They are returned with thanks.



(W.B. TART)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

ENCLOSURE

18A

184/115/Air/15115

20/9/43.

SECRET

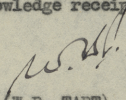
The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No.461 Squadron : R. A. A. F.

Further to this Headquarters' letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for the month of August, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.


(W.B. TART)

Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

AUGUST, 1943.

AUGUST 2nd, 1943. SUNDERSLAND LOSS. While on Anti-Submarine Patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 401346 P/Lt. Clarke in conjunction with aircraft of No. 228 Squadron, attacked an enemy U-boat. The U-boat was seen to blow up and thirty or more of the crew to jump overboard.

The following message was received from the Air Officer Commanding No. 19 Group. "Today's operations have been a smashing success. Co-operation between all units have been beyond reproach. Well done and keep it up. They can't keep this pace up for long."

AUGUST 6th, 1943. A dance, which was attended by Group Captain A.M. Carey, Station Commander, and Wing Commander D.L.C. Douglas, D.F.C. Commanding Officer of the Squadron, was held in the Officer's Mess.

AUGUST 8th, 1943. VISIT. Air Commodore Lloyd, Deputy Air Officer Commanding, Coastal Command, visited the Station.

Mr. Norman Wilkinson, R.A. an official War Artist in 1914-1918 is at the Station painting a series of pictures of Coastal Command work.

AUGUST 13th, 1943. SUNDERSLAND LOSS. Sunderland captained by Aus. 400780 P/O. Dowling took off on Anti-Submarine patrol and failed to return. Last message received was that she was being attacked by six Ju.88s. The crew were: - Aus. 400783 P/O. Dowling, Aus. 400975 P/O. Galt, Aus. 400411 P/O. Grainger, Aus. 403778 P/O. Simpson, D.F.C., Aus. 26697 P/Sgt. Turner, Aus. 26585 Sgt. Watson, Aus. 409083 W/O. Miller, P/Sgt. Fuller, D.F.M., Aus. 424701 P/Sgt. Lane, Aus. 415338 P/Sgt. Longson, Aus. 407499 W/O. Goode, D.F.M.

AUGUST 15th, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. While on Anti-Submarine patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 403216 P/Lt. Davenport was attacked by six Ju.88s and considerably damaged. Aus. 415748 P/Sgt. Woodhouse, R.V. was killed and Aus. 401696 W/O. Jones, I. was wounded.

AUGUST 16th, 1943. General Arnold, Commanding General of the United States Army Air Force sent the following message to 19 Group.

"Let me add my own congratulations to the men you have already commended on their extraordinary July record against submarines. Their performance has earned them a high place on the roll of victories in our world wide offensive. The United States Army Air Force is proud to have shared with you in this achievement. The effective collaborations between our forces may well be symbolic of our ultimate purpose; complete and unconditional defeat of the common enemy."

AUGUST 24th, 1943. BROADCAST. Aus. 407210 P/O. G. Viner, a member of the Squadron, broadcast in the B.B.C. "Kitchen Front" a talk on "Cooking in a Sunderland."

AUGUST 30th, 1943. SUNDERSLAND LOSS. Sunderland captained by Aus. 403648 P/O. Croft took off on Anti-Submarine patrol and failed to return, being shot down during an attack by three enemy aircraft. It was seen by a Liberator to crash into the sea. Members of the crew were: - Aus. 403648 P/O. Croft, Aus. 412751 P/O. Emmett, Aus. 418945 P/Sgt. Harris, Aus. 412385 P/O. Bushell, Sgt. Ferrett, Sgt. Stewart, P/Sgt. Sedgley, Aus. 405105 W/O. Gemble, Aus. 415749 P/Sgt. Yemas, Aus. 412700 P/Sgt. Ritchie, and Aus. 415661 P/Sgt. Hunter.

STATISTICS FROM FORMATION TO 31.8.53

Operational miles flown 640,000
Number of sorties 475
Enemy Ships & U-boats destroyed 4
Enemy Ships & U-boats probably destroyed 5
Enemy Ships & U-boats damaged 2
Enemy aircraft destroyed 10
Enemy aircraft probably destroyed 7
Enemy aircraft damaged 3

184/115/Air/16192

28/10/43.

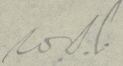
SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDSNo. 461 Squadron : R. A. A. F.

Further to this Headquarters' letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for the month of September, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.


(W.B. TART)

Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

SEPTEMBER, 1941.

SEPTEMBER 1st, 1941. COKERINER. The squadron was presented with a piece of the wreckage of the U-boat sunk by Aus. 400656 P/Lt. B. Harrows on 31.7.43. The number of the U-boat sunk and the Sunderland which destroyed it was "U/461". The presentation was made by Captain Walker of R.N.S. Woodpecker - Leader of the Escort Group which co-operated with U/461 in the attack.

SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1941. The squadron took part in a Station parade to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the war. W/Otr. R.L. Douglas, R.N.C. commanded the parade.

SEPTEMBER 7th, 1941. AWARD. The award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to Aus. 41139, P/Sgt. Wallace Mackie was gazetted today. Mackie was in Aus. 403725 P/Lt. Pods crew when they crashed attempting to land to pick up survivors on May 28th, 1941. He supported P/O. Gigg who was seriously injured, for thirty minutes in the water.

ATTACK ON TRAINERS. Sunderland captained by Aus. 405119 P/Lt. R.N.S. Baird attacked and stopped two Spanish traders with machine gun fire.

SEPTEMBER 8th, 1941. While on Anti-U-Boat patrol, Sunderland captained by Aus. 411841 P/Lt. R.C. Singleton sighted a dingy with 3 survivors. An emergency pack was dropped by parachute. P/Lt. Singleton was airborne for 1 1/2 hours 36 minutes, the longest sortie by the squadron.

SEPTEMBER 10th, 1941. AIR SEA RESCUE. Sunderland captained by Aus. 411841 P/Lt. R.C. Singleton again sighted a dingy and surface vessels were directed to the area.

SEPTEMBER 15th, 1941. The Squadron took part in a Station parade to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

SEPTEMBER 16th, 1941. ATTACK ON BOMB AIRCRAFT. While on Anti-U-Boat patrol Sunderland captained by Aus. 400656 P/Lt. B. Harrows was attacked by six Ju. 88s. The Sunderland put up a gallant fight for nearly an hour and then was forced to land on the sea with three engines out of action. The crew managed to get into a dingy from which they were rescued by a sloop 1 1/2 hours later. They were later transferred to R.N.S. Woodpecker - the ship which had rescued the survivors of the German U-boat sunk by P/Lt. Harrows and crew on 31.7.43. As a memento Captain Walker presented P/Lt. Harrows with the "Red Vest" and escape apparatus used by the U-boat commander, and these were later forwarded to R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London, for exhibition.

SEPTEMBER 26th, 1941. The Squadron took part in a local parade of all services to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

SEPTEMBER 27th, 1941. Aus. 6161 P/Sgt. Rebo, R.N. in charge of the maintenance of the Squadron, broadcast in the "Travel Talker" series over the R.N.C. giving an account of his experiences with the Australian shorelines.

184/115/Air/16974.

23/11/43.

SECRET

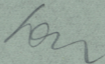
The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

No. 461 Squadron ; R. A. A. F.

Further to this Headquarters' letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for the month of October, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.



(W.H. NEWNHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

21A

184/115/Air/110.

6/1/44.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 461 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 461
Squadron, R.A.A.F. for November, 1943, compiled
from the Operations Records Books, and a Nominal
Roll dated 1.10.43.

3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.H.

(W.H. HEWTHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

NOVEMBER, 1943.

NOVEMBER 9th, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. While on Anti-Submarine patrol, Sunderland captained by Aus. 411298 F/O. J.B.B. Dobson was attacked by four Ju.88s. Hits were sustained but no casualties. One enemy aircraft is claimed as severely damaged.

NOVEMBER 16th, 1943. INVESTITURE. Aus. 400114 F/O. J.J. Dupont went to Buckingham Palace to receive the D.F.M. from H.M. the King. F/O. Dupont was awarded the D.F.M. while serving with another unit.

NOVEMBER 25th, 1943. Aus. 403860 S/Ldr. H.G. Cooke, D.F.C. took over the duties of Flight Commander from Aus. 3932 S/Ldr. T.A. Egerton, D.F.C. who is returning to Australia.

NOVEMBER 29th, 1943. SUNDERLAND LOST. Sunderland captained by Aus. 401956 F/Lt. D.S.P. Howe took off on Anti-Submarine patrol and failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 401956 F/Lt. D.S.P. Howe, Aus. 400114 F/O. J.J. Dupont, D.F.M., Aus. 5364 F/O. G.Y. Temple, Aus. 422071 F/O. W.J. Withers, Aus. 423628 F/O. G.W.B. Bye, Aus. 414321 F/Sgt. J.H. Royal, F/Sgt. L. White, Aus. 415745 F/Sgt. L.G. Studman, Aus. 419325 F/Sgt. W.K. Motitz, Aus. 412533 F/O. K.V. Hore, Aus. 402319 F/O. E.R. Critcher, Sgt. R. Jeffreys, and Aus. 420051 F/Sgt. J.H. Poulton.

NOVEMBER 30th, 1943. GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE. Aus. 171 W/Cdr. D.L.G. Douglas, D.F.C., as one of six Dominion and Allied officers, attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and met their Majesties.

STATISTICS.

Total number of sorties and hours completed by the Squadron up to 30.11.43

Sorties	630
Hours	7101

Enemy Submarines destroyed 4, probably destroyed 5, damaged 2.
Enemy aircraft destroyed 10, probably destroyed 8, damaged 7.

22A.

184/115/Air/409.

SECRET

14th January, 1944.

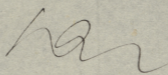
The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 461 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for December, 1943, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.



(W.H. NEWNHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

History of No. 461 Squadron.

228

DECEMBER, 1943.

DECEMBER 5th, 1943. INVESTITURE. Aus. 3932 S/Ldr. T.A. Egerton D.F.C. and Aus. 403860 S/Ldr. H.G. Cooke, D.F.C. went to Buckingham Palace to an investiture held by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, in the absence, through illness, of H.M. the King.

DECEMBER 9th, 1943. VISIT. Air Vice Marshal H.N. Wrigley, Air Officer Commanding, R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, accompanied by Wing Commander Hartnell, visited the Squadron.

DECEMBER 21st, 1943. VISIT. Squadron Leader J. Traacy, Reverend Father, from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

DECEMBER 24th, 1943. ENEMY NAVAL FORCE. Sunderland captained by Aus. 412498 P/O. C.J. Dawson, acting on orders, found and shadowed an enemy naval force of ten ships. Flak from the destroyers and a Ju.88 were evaded in cloud. Sunderland captained by Aus. 420692 P/Lt. R.D. Lucas sighted an enemy surface force in action with Halifaxes and three unidentified aircraft.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES. A Christmas Eve 'Smoke Social' was held for all ranks, at which the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander D.L.G. Douglas, D.F.C. made a short speech, thanking the maintenance staff for their good work.

DECEMBER 27th, 1943. As part of the Christmas entertainment the pantomime "Cinderella" was performed by personnel of the Station.

DECEMBER 28th, 1943. ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Sunderland captained by Aus. 401999 P/Lt. R. Newton was attacked by a FW.200 but managed to reach cloud cover. No casualties were sustained.

DECEMBER 30th, 1943. LIFEBOAT SIGHTED. Sunderland captained by Aus. 401976 P/O. F.C. Leigh sighted and reported a lifeboat with 35 survivors.

The following are copies of messages received from the Air Officer Commanding No. 19 Group.

- (1) Please convey my appreciation of the excellent results obtained during the past three months by the Maintenance personnel of R.A.F. Station, Pembroke Dock. In spite of increase in tasks and length of operational sorties, all ranks have consistently made the grade. Well done!
- (2) As a result of operations during the past few days, one valuable enemy blockade runner was sunk by H/311 and 5 enemy Destroyers were sunk and others damaged by H.M. Ships who only suffered superficial damage and eight casualties. This highly successful operation was largely made possible by the consistent accuracy of positions given in sightings reports and the excellent procedure in shadowing and homing. Well done all aircrews and maintenance personnel!

STATISTICS. Squadron statistics up to 31.12.43

Sorties 637
Hours 764
Miles 917280

Submarines sunk 4, damaged 2,
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 6, damaged 8.

184/115/Air/1541

16/2/44.

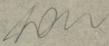
SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDSNo. 461 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for January, 1944, and Nominal Roll dated 1st. December, 1943.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.


(W.H. NENNHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

JANUARY, 1943.

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. 403417 A/P/Lt. D.H. Kennedy, was gasetted 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 8182
Operational Miles 984,530
Operational Sorties 736

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

CLOSURE

24A

184/115/Air

23/2/44.

Commanding Officer,
No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
R.A.F. Station,
Pembroke Dock,
S. Wales.

Would you please supply two half plate prints each of the two groups taken in front of the Flying Boat. These are required for records and for publicity purposes.

Only

(D.N. GILLISON)
Squadron Leader, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

Perro

25A

184/115/Air/2927

24/3/44.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 461 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/115/Air/11976, dated 12/5/43,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 461 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for February, 1944, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.H.

(W.H. NEWNHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

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. Petherick, 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 "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.

