

A59-56 SF-T "COFFEE POT"

Last corrected 10 Jul 22 - Phil Herdman

1 Oct 43									Status card
3 Oct 43									13 Sqn A50 56
27-Dec-43	F/O AG Goudie	Canberra - Canberra		Test					Whitlam log 56
27 Dec 43	F/O AG Goudie	Canberra - Camden							
Dec 43"									13 Sqn A50 A Flight Camden & Whitlam log 56
29 Dec 43	F/O AG Goudie	Camden - Camden	CAM 20-3	Search for enemy subs - landing accident					13 Sqn A51 56
29 Dec 43									
									13 Sqn A50
30 Dec 43									Status card
5 Feb 44	F/O IR Sinclair	Cam - Cam	CAM 5-2	Search for enemy subs					13 Sqn A51 56
6 Feb 44	F/O PW Clarkson	Cam - Cam	CAM 8-2	Search for enemy subs					13 Sqn A51 56
8 Feb 44	F/O FR Ware	Cam - Cam	CAM 10-2	Search for enemy subs					13 Sqn A51 56
10 Feb 44	F/O PW Clarkson	Cam - Cam	CAM 13-2	Search for enemy subs					13 Sqn A51 56
11-Feb-44	S/L LA Douglas	Canberra - Camden		Op travel 1750-1840hrs					Whitlam log 56
16 Feb 44	S/L LA Douglas	Cof - Cof	Cof 9	SE training with an M.L. & anti sub exercise					13 Sqn A51 & Whitlam log 56
18-Feb-44	S/L LA Douglas	Camden - Cof		Op travel 1300-1440hrs					Whitlam log 56
19 Feb 44	F/Lt GL Brown	Cof - Cof	Cof 19-1	Search					13 Sqn A51 56
24 Feb 44	F/Sgt Davies	Cof - Cof	Cof 32-1	Anti-sub patrol					13 Sqn A51 56
25 Feb 44	S/L LA Douglas	Cof - Cof	Cof 36-1	Search					13 Sqn A51 56
29 Feb 44	F/Sgt Davies	Cof - Cof	Cof 45-1	Search					13 Sqn A51 56
4 Mar 44									Status Card
9 Mar 44									Status Card
04-May-44	F/O TJ Branigan	Archerfield - Ross River		"Met Flash Carmody, Bull Cuzens & Gil Cory at pool"					Lew Dwyer 83 Sqn log book
8 Jun 44	F/Sgt Davies	Cof? - Cooktown	Travel	"Proposed flight 28 May"					13 Sqn Records & Returns
09-Jun-44		Townsville - Cooktown							Cooktown Watch Log 56
17-Jul-44		Cooktown - Cooktown		Test					Cooktown Watch Log 56
31-Jul-44		Cooktown - Cooktown		Test					Cooktown Watch Log 56
1-Aug-44		Cooktown-Cairns - Townsville		0933- 1200hrs RON					Cooktown Watch Log 56
2-Aug-44		Townsville - Cairns - Cook							Cooktown Watch Log 56
5-Aug-44		Cooktown - Cooktown		Gunnery 1025-1206hrs					Cooktown Watch Log 56
14 Aug 44	SF-T F/O PW Clarkson	Cook - Cook	CMI 31-1	HW Ptl Force BA					13 Sqn A51 56 & NEA Comp Ops SF-T
16-Aug-44		Cooktown - Gove							Cooktown Watch Log 56

8-Sep-44	SF-T	P/O HD Dargie	Gov-Ptl -Gov	Gov 8-4 W Ptl Force S HMAS Ballarat (Not found)	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air
Ops SF-T.					
9-Sep-44	SF-T	F/O McCahon	Gov-Ptl - Gov	Gov 10-1 W Ptl Force S HMAS Bunbury/Suva/Alagna	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air
Ops SF-T/10-1					
10-Sep-44	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Gov-Ptl - Gov	Gov 12-3 W Ptl Force B HMAS Freemantle/Schwedagan	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air
Ops SF-T/12-3					
17-Sep-44	SF-T	W/O Anning	Gov-Ptl - Gov	Gov 21-2 W Ptl Force T HMAS Barcoo/Katoomba	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air
Ops SF-T/21-2					
18-Sep-44	SF-T	F/O PW Clarkson	Gov-Ptl- Gov	Gov 25-2 W Ptl Force S HMAS Freemantle/Dundula	8hr ptl 13 Sqn A51 56
& 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T/25-2 & Cathro log 56/8hr					
5-Oct-44	SF-T	F/O NI McCahon	Gov-Ptl - Gov	Gov 39-1 W Ptl Force DC Samuel H Walker	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T
Ops SF-T					
8-Oct-44	SF-T	P/O WM Wilson	Gov-Ptl- Gov	Gov 41-2 W Ptl Force TU Mathew Flinders	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-
T/41-2					
11-Oct-44	SF-T	F/O AG Goudie	Gov-Ptl - Gov	Gov 46-6 Force CC Oohoo	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T/46-6
Ops SF-T/46-6					
14-Oct-44	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Gov-Ptl - Hig	Gov 1-2 Force T (Tare) Mernoo	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T/1-2/Hig
Ops SF-T/1-2/Hig					
17-Oct-44	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Hig-Ptl - Gov	Gov 4-2 Force TT Oohoo	13 Sqn A51 56 & NIR 79 Wing HQ Air Ops
Ops SF-T					
22-Oct-44	SF-T	P/O L Davies	Gov -Gorrie	Travel	Whitlam log 56/Davies/Gorrie
Ops SF-T					
24 Oct 44	"Received 14 ARD ex 13 Sqn for double engine change."				Status Card
6 Dec 44	"Received 13 Sqn ex 14 ARD."				Status Card
15-Dec-44	SF-T	F/O TJ Branigan	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 36-2 Force AA San Rafael	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T/36-2
Ops SF-T/36-2					
20-Dec-44	SF-T	F/O IR Sinclair	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 46-2 Force DA	13 Sqn A51 56 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-T/46-2 & Tranter log 56
Ops SF-T/46-2 & Tranter log 56					
5-Jan-45	SF-T	Not in records	Gov-Gov	Bombing prac & formation	13 Sqn Watch T/bomb form
Ops SF-T					
6-Jan-45	SF-T	F/Lt GA Anderson	Gov -Gov	Form flying	13 Sqn Watch T/form
Ops SF-T					
8-Jan-45	SF-T	F/Lt TJ Branigan	Gov-Gov	Formation flying	13 Sqn Watch T/Branigan/form
Ops SF-T					
8-Jan-45	SF-T	S/L RS Dennis	Gov-Gov	Test	13 Sqn Watch 56/T/Dennis/test
Ops SF-T					
10-Jan-45	SF-T	Not in records	Gov-Gov	Test	13 Sqn Watch T/test
Ops SF-T					
10-Jan-45		F/O PW Clarkson	Gov-Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/Clarkson/training & Not in Cathro log
Ops SF-T					
10-Jan-45		W/O GW Anning	Gov-Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/Anning/training
Ops SF-T					
10-Jan-45		F/O NI McCahon	Gov-Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/McCahon/training
Ops SF-T					
10-Jan-45		F/O L Davies	Gov-Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/Davies/training
Ops SF-T					
11-Jan-45		Not in records	Gov-Gov	Instrument flying test	13 Sqn Watch & 56/T/training
Ops SF-T					
11-Jan-45	SF-T	Not in records	Gov- Gov	Instrument flying test	13 Sqn Watch 56/T
Ops SF-T					
11-Jan-45	SF-T	Not in records	Gov- Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/T/training
Ops SF-T					
11-Jan-45	SF-T	Not in records	Gov - Gov	Training	13 Sqn Watch 56/T/training
Ops SF-T					
13-Jan-45	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Gov - Gov	Enroute Truscott - Jettison petrol & RTB & "Losing oil, port motor" & "eng. prob. RTB"	13 Sqn Watch T/Anning/RTB
Ops SF-T					
13-Jan-45	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Gov - Bat	With McCahon to fly back A59-70	13 Sqn Watch T/McCahon-70/Bat RON
Ops SF-T					
14-Jan-45	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Bat - Truscott	Watch log Truscott 56 Gov-Bat-Truscott & 13 Sqn Watch T land Truscott	
Ops SF-T					
14-Jan-45	SF-T	W/O GW Anning?	Truscott - Dwn	Watch log Truscott 56/SF-T to Dwn	
Ops SF-T					

15-Jan-45	SF-T	W/O GW Anning	Dwn - Gov			13 Sqn Watch 56/T/land Gove
24-Jan-45	SF-T	F/O L Davies?	Gov - Gov	Test		13 Sqn Watch T/Davies? Illegible/test
24-Jan-45	SF-T	S/L RS Dennis	Gov - Gov	C & B With F/Lt K Dwyer		13 Sqn Watch T/C&B
25-Jan-45	SF-T	F/O PW Clarkson	Gov-Bat -Dwn	To pick up Dargie & crew	T replaced X U/S for this detail	13 Sqn Watch T/Clarkson/X u/s
26-Jan-45	SF-T	F/O PW Clarkson	Dwn - Gov			13 Sqn Watch T/Dwn
27-Jan-45	SF-T	F/O PW Clarkson	Gov	Gunnery Veronica Is	"pranged off Bremer Is"	Cathro log 56/prang.

27 Jan 45 "A/C crashed on training gunnery & QGH approach conditions or glassy sea & statements indicate possibility of pilot error in judgement of losing too much height during gunnery practice."
Ventura Accidents

27-Jan-45	A59-78	SF-J	P/O MT Boyd	Gov-Search Gov	Gov 53-4 Search for A59-56 (SF-T)	13 Sqn A51 78 & 13 Sqn Watch 78/J
27-Jan-45	A59-70	SF-Y	F/Lt Kennedy-Dwyer	Gov-Search Gov	Gov 53-5 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn A51 70 & 13 Sqn Watch 70/Y
27-Jan-45	A59-61	SF-X	F/Lt TJ Branigan	Gov-Search - Gov	Gov 53-6 Search for A59-56 -Rtn bad weather	13 Sqn A51 61 & 13 Sqn Watch 61/X
27-Jan-45	A59-64	SF-H	F/O FR Ware	Gov-Search - Gov	Gov 53-7 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn A51 64 & 13 Sqn Watch 64/H
28-Jan-45	A47-28	KO-B	Not in records	Hug-Gov -Gov	Gov 55-9 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn Watch B & NIR 2 Sqn
28-Jan-45	A47-32	KO-Y	Not in records	Hug-Gov-Gov	Gov 55-10 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn Watch Y & NIR 2 Sqn
28-Jan-45	A47-18	KO-J	Not in records	Hug-Gov-Gov	Gov 55-11 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn Watch J & NIR 2 Sqn
28-Jan-45	A47-39	KO-C	Not in records	Hug-Gov-Gov	Gov 55-12 Search for A59-56	13 Sqn Watch C & NIR 2 Sqn

"Diving operations were carried out at the scene of the crash but the major portion of A59-56 could not be located."

31 Jan 45 A59-60, whilst on a test flight, spotted floating wheel 100yds off SE corner of Bremer Island. 13 Sqn Watch log

2 Feb 45 "Mission station advises remains A59-56 found." NFI 13 Sqn Watch Log

Additional notes from various sources -

0003 GMT 27 Jan 1945 airborne Gove airstrip for gunnery exercise. This entailed going to a designated location, deploying an aluminium float & commence target practice.

0025 radar plot (from Yiirkala 321 radar station) 330deg 18m.

0100 lost contact.

27 Jan 1945 crashed into the sea whilst on gunnery exercise. The wing tip hit the water in "glassy conditions".

The force of the impact sheared off a wing & landing gear as well as breaking the aircraft in two, throwing out one of the survivors.

3 crew went down with the wreckage, the pilot escaped the cockpit before the aircraft sunk and supported himself on the landing leg (with the tyre still inflated providing buoyancy).

The 2 survivors inflated a dingy & rescued the pilot who later died of his injuries.

From one of the survivors "we could not see land so paddled in a southerly direction".

Eventually made landfall at Bremer Island.

Below are logged messages, not actual times.

Catalina report – SFT crashed 12 05S 136 55E. This is just east of Bremer.(This is incorrect as survivors could not see land, more likely to be dingy sighting).

Empty dingy sighted 2 miles west of Nth tip of Bremer Island.

1150 Crash launch required to search near 11 59S 136 48E. (Due Nth of Bremer).

2240 Survivors located 12 04S 136 51E (NE of Bremer)

Survivors located "20 miles NW of Bromby Island".(It would appear this should be Bremer Island).

2300 Sighted dingy 12 03S 136 48E. (Between Veronica & Bremer.)

The landing leg eventually washed up on the most southerly tip of Bremer Island & was recovered in the 1990's.

A trawler operating illegally between Bremer Island & the mainland pulled up a wing in late 80's, early 90's. "*We just cut the net & got out of the area*".

Aircraft Status cards - Ventura A59-1 to A59-20, A59-50 to A59-104 NAA: A10297, BLOCK 376, 3046016

North Eastern Area - AOR Log Book (Completed Operations) (1944-5) AWM66, 14/2/2 515410

Ventura A59 [Accidents Part 1] NAA: A9845, 114, 6950498.

Control Officers Watch Log 13 Sqn, AWM66 22/1/26, 515693.

Control Officers Watch Log Truscott, AWM66 22/1/22, 515689.

(79 Wing) Operation Room Summary, (1 Sep - 31 Oct 1944) AWM64 6/5C 1968635

North Eastern Area - AOR Log Book (Completed Operations) (1944-5) AWM66, 14/2/2 515410

AMES Lloyd Haig - (Flight Sergeant); Service Number - 210069; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PV1 A59-56; Place - Grove, Northern Territory; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/3/3651061239.

CALDER, Edward Louis - (Flight Lieutenant); Service Number - 406770; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PV1 A59-56; Place - Gove, Northern Territory; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/7/815, 1065258

CATHRO, Gordon Frank - (Warrant Officer); Service Number - 417991; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PVI A59-56; Place - Gove, Northern Territory; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/7/816, 1065259

CLARKSON, Peter Wilberforce - (Flying Officer); Service Number - 427499; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PVI A59-56; Place - Gove, Northern Territory; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/7/818, 1065261

MURDOCH, George Robert - (Warrant Officer); Service Number - 420396; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PV1 A59-56; Place - Gulf of Carpentaria, NT; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/28/502, 1074734

PEACOCK, Eric Clyde - (Warrant Officer); Service Number - 423425; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Ventura PV1 A59-56; Place - Vicinity Island, Australia; Date - 27 January 1945 NAA: A705, 166/32/631, 1077012

WHITLAM, Edward Gough 423371: Faxed Log Book copy from Gough Whitlam 1991.