

35 SQUADRON RAAF IN AUSTRALIA DURING WWII



35 Squadron RAAF was formed at RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia in February 1942 and was initially Moth and a de Havilland Dragon aircraft. 35 Squadron commenced operations in March 1942 flying operation Island and Kalgoorlie. The Squadron relocated to Maylands Airfield in Perth on 6 April 1942.

The de Havilland Dragon made a forced landing into the sea south of Dongara reducing the squadron down to t Moth Minor, a twin seat trainer, was acquired shortly later, though was not that suitable for transport operation

Two Fairey Battles joined the squadron in September 1942, again not that suitable for transport operations. A Avro Anson joined the squadron in October 1942. A Dragon Rapide joined the motley collection of squadro 1942. Six Tiger Moths and a Northrup Delta joined the Squadron during December 1942 through to January 1

35 Squadron relocated back to Pearce on 5 August 1943 and eventually replaced their strange collection of ai on 18 December 1943. The strange collection of aircraft was then inherited by 7 Communications Unit RAAF.

35 Squadron Dakotas based in Pearce commenced freight and passenger operations to as far as Broome in Essendon in Melbourne.

35 Squadron moved to Guildford in Western Australia on 11 August 1944. A Detachment of 35 Squadron was in south east Queensland later in August 1944 for special duties in eastern and northern Australia. The contro passed from the [Directorate of Air Transport](#) to the RAAF on 16 October 1944.

Three Dakotas from 35 Squadron flew to [Higgins Airfield](#) on 17 October 1944 to fly a special ferry service to A of New Guinea.

A Detachment of the Squadron began operation from Townsville and staged through Iron Range, Merauke, H Noemfoor. Another Detachment was based in Darwin in the Northern Territory.

On 31 January 1945 an advance party left Guildford for Townsville, arriving there on 3 February 1945. The re arrived in Townsville in February and March 1945. They started scheduled operations to bases in eastern Aus on 1 April 1945. A Detachment was based at Morotai in late April 1945.

The Detachment at Morotai closed in April 1946 and scheduled services from Townsville ceased in March 1946 on 19 June 1946.

WWII Commanding Officers of 35 Squadron were as follows:-

11 March 1942 Flying Officer Robert Owen Giles (291433) 6
April 1942 Flight Lieutenant E. Burdeu
8 March 1944 Squadron Leader K.A. Hopkinson 20
October 1944 Squadron Leader L.B. Harber
29 June 1945 Squadron Leader N.W. Webster 20
August 1945 Squadron Leader K.S. Brown