





Some details of the above 38 Sqn Aircraft:

1. Date. 28 Mar 1970,
2. Place. THAT SON South Vietnam.
3. Destroyed by mortar fire and heavy arms while delivering fuel from BIN THUY to THAT SON.
4. Crew, Bert Milne. Mick Calvert. Nev Church. Bob Laing

The crew were in the aircraft unloading when the mortar round struck the Caribou. No significant injuries – amazing.

13 February 1972: RAAF Caribou aircraft ceased flying in Vietnam

Did you know that on 13 February 1972, No 35 Squadron flew its last operational mission in Vietnam. Six days later, the last four RAAF Caribou aircraft left Vung Tau arriving at Richmond Air Force Base in late February. 35 Squadron was the last RAAF unit to leave Vietnam.

Over seven and a half years in Vietnam, 35 Squadron completed almost 80,000 sorties and 47,000 hours flying. The squadron carried more than 675,000 passengers, 36 million kilos of freight, and 5 million kilos of mail. During the period, two aircraft were destroyed in landing accidents and one aircraft was destroyed by mortar fire. RAAF Caribou aircraft were hit by enemy ground fire wounding aircrew. However, there were no RAAF Caribou fatalities.

Twelve RAAF caribou aircraft served in Vietnam transporting personnel and equipment to various airfields throughout Vietnam. They also carried livestock, mail, fuel, and even Vietnamese workers. Nicknamed Wallaby

airlines after their callsign, a name that would forever last with the squadron, 35 Squadron served with distinction in Vietnam. The seven years of distinguished service in Vietnam was reflected in 35 Squadron members being awarded two appointments to the Member of the Order of British Empire, eight Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Distinguished Flying Medal, one British Empire Medal, and 36 Mentions in Despatches.

Photos of RAAF Caribou aircraft in Vietnam can be sourced courtesy of Australian War Memorial Digital Online Collection (Copyright expired, public domain).