

September, 1977

SEQUEL TO WARTIME AIR CRASH

Part of the engine firewall of a No. 1 Squadron Hudson which was shot down near Kota Bahru, Malaysia, nearly 36-years ago, is now preserved in the form of a nameplate at RAAF Base, Amberley, Qld.

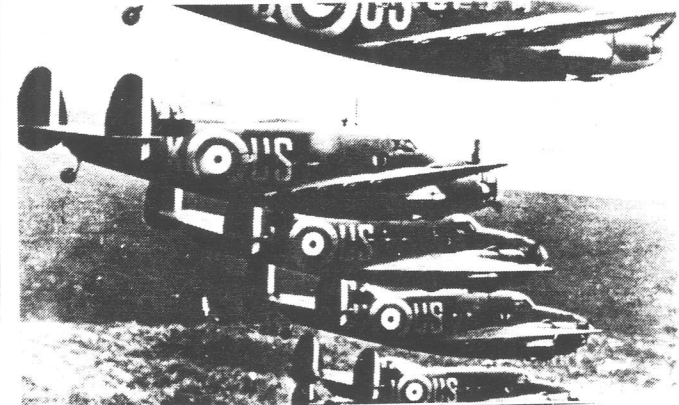
The port engine of the aircraft was recovered from the sea on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula last year. It is now at the Australian War Memorial, (December, 1976 RAAF News).

The aircraft was one of two Hudsons of No. 1 Squadron which was destroyed about 1 am, on December 8, 1941, while attacking the Japanese fleet involved in the initial invasion of Malaya (the Pearl Harbour attack in Hawaii took place a few hours later (local time) and brought America into the war).

Part of the wreckage from one of the aircraft, A16-19, was later sent by the Officer Commanding Butterworth to the Officer Commanding RAAF Amberley, suitably mounted on an inscribed plaque.

The plaque reads: "This name plate was cut from an engine firewall of No.1 Squadron Hudson A16-19 which was shot down near Kota Bahru, Malaysia, on 8 December, 1941 while attacking Japanese invasion shipping. The aircraft and its crew were probably the first RAAF casualties after the entry of Japan into World War II. Some of the wreckage was recovered from the sea in 1976 — presented by the Officer Commanding Butterworth."

In the picture below, the O.C. Amberley, AIRCDRE R.F. Drury, presents the plaque to the C.O. of No.1 Squadron, WGCNDR R. J. Walsh. The other photo shows No.1 Squadron Hudsons flying over Malaya.



RAAF NEWS