

RAAF VENTURA MISCELLANEOUS

13 Squadron: Re-equipped from B-34 Venturas to PV-1s:

Last B34 was A59-14 which left 34 Sqn at Canberra for 2AD 5.5.44
Replaced by PV-1 A59-72 which arrived Canberra ex 2AP 6.5.44.

A59-81: While on 120 hourly inspection at Labuan (13 Sqn), slid from trestles during gale. Received structural damage and converted to components:

7 . 4.44 Rec 2AD ex USA. ("Ex 49431")
24. 4.44 Rec 2AP ex 2AD for inspection
26. 5.44 Rec 13 Sqn ex 2AP to replace A59-68
15.12.44 Rec 14ARD ex 13 Sqn for 240 hourly overhaul
5 . 3.45 Rec 13 Sqn ex 14ARD
8 .10.45 Slid off trestles during inspection, damaged
16.10.45 Rec 1RSU ex 13 Sqn for survey report on damage
25.10.45 Request approval to convert to components
9 .11.45 Uneconomical to repair
3 .12.45 Approval granted for conversion to components.

13 Squadron Diary confirms this damage occurred at Labuan.

A59-51: 13 Sqn: Port undercarriage collapsed while taxiing on soft surface at Bundaberg 25.10.43.

A59-52: 13 Sqn: Struck tree on coastline during bombing exercise over sea off Canberra 10.11.43. Minor damage only.

A59-3: 1AD. Crashed Mallacoota, Vic 12.12.44 when starboard undercarriage collapsed on landing. Was on travel flight New Guinea-Laverton, proceeding coastal from Mascot due low cloud and rain. Landed Mallacoota in heavy rain. (Had flown 258 hours in USA prior to entering RAAF service)

A59-90: 1AD. Starboard undercarriage collapsed on takeoff Laverton 30.4.45.

A59-13: 1AD. While escorting 7 Spitfires Laverton-Morotai, ran off runway on takeoff Jacksons Strip, Port Moresby when port tyre burst. 4.6.45. Port undercarriage collapsed. Flt Lt. Jackson & 6 crew unhurt.

A59-87: 1APU. Forced landing in paddock wheels-up Kangaroo Valley, NSW due engine failure 21.6.45. No injuries. En route Laverton-Williamtown via Nowra.

A59-9: 10TU Struck ground at night, disintegrated on impact. 6 killed

No.13 SQUADRON, RAAF - GOVE OPERATIONS

- 8.44 13 Squadron moved from Cooktown, Qld to Gove, NT.
16. 8.44 "A" Flight flew Cooktown-Gove, 8 PV-1 Venturas.
25. 8.44 "B" Flight flew Cooktown-Gove, 9 PV-1 Venturas.
- 30.10.44 Remaining personnel (90) and truck, equipment arrived at Gove on ship "Mangola".
- 2 .10.44 Ventura A59-75 landed wheels-up at Gove when undercarriage unable to be lowered. Crash landed at 2030GMT. Bombs and depth charges jettisoned prior to landing. Pilots F/O I.R.Sinclair & E.A. 'Halloran and crew uninjured. Damaged slight because keel attached to bomb bay doors took all the strain of landing. (Rebuilt)
- 19.10.44 Ventura A59-83 crashed into sea 3 miles North East of West Island while en route Gove-Higgins. Due to engine failure, forced landing in sea. No injuries, all crew rescued.
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27. 1.45 Ventura A59-84 crashed at Batchelor. Had departed Batchelor for Truscott but returned and seen in circuit in poor weather. Crashed at SE end of Gould Strip, destroyed by fire. All 5 crew killed.
27. 1.45 (Same day): Ventura A59-56 crashed into the sea near Brenner Island, 12 miles from Gove. Aircraft engaged on gunnery exercise. 3 survivors sighted by Catalina, picked up by crash launch. Aircraft Code "SF-T".
18. 3.45 Beaufort A9-501 attached to No.4 Repair & Salvage Unit ran off strip landing at Gove, starboard oleo leg collapsed. No injuries.
22. 3.45 Ventura A59-60 crashed on Gove Strip. Practicing takeoffs and landings, port undercarriage collapsed, aircraft groundlooped heavily. "Finished up alongside crashed Beaufort A9-501". Later repaired.
- 3.45 13 Squadron Venturas regularly staging via Truscott to operational area.
- 6 . 6.45 Ventura A59-23 groundlooped while taxiing at Gove, tailwheel damaged. Flg Off. J.Osborne ,4 crew, no injuries.
- 7 . 6.45 Squadron groundcrew sailed for new base at Labuan. Departed Gove on board "William H.Seward", 141 personnel. Picked up more personnel in Darwin, Port Moresby and Morotai.
24. 6.45 Ventura A59-79 crashed on takeoff Gove, when pilot retracted the undercarriage too early, minor damage only. Repaired, flown out.
- *6 .12.44 Lancaster PD328 arrived at Gove at 1015 hrs, Wing Commander McKinley pilot. He gave lectures on navigation and radar equipment in the aircraft to 13 Squadron personnel.

No.13 SQUADRON,RAAF - LABUAN OPERATIONS

- 6 . 9.45 Ventura A59-99 crashed on takeoff Balikpapan when port tyre blew out. Swung off strip, destroyed by fire. No injuries. Aircraft burned for an hour. F/O B.E.Chandler & 2 crew unhurt.
- 5 .10.45 Ventura A59-104 inaugurated bi-weekly service Labuan-Singapore, flown by Sqn Ldr.Fitzgerald.
- 6 .10.45 Ventura A59-76 departed Labuan for Tokyo, Fl.Lt.Wilson. Returned 1.11.45.
- 8 .10.45 Ventura A59-81 fell from trestles during gale. Was undergoing routine maintenance at Labuan. Received severe structural damage.
- 12.11.45 Ventura A59-70 commenced Courier Service to Darwin, via Balikpapan, departed Labuan, Fl.Lt.Graham.
- 25.11.45 Ventura A59-72 crashed on takeoff Balikpapan on test flight. No injuries.
- 27.11.45 Ventura A59-85 tailwheel collapsed while taxiing from 1RSU dispersal at Labuan prior to takeoff for Singapore.
- 19.12.45 A59-103 left Labuan for Australia
- 20.12.45 A59-104 " " "
- 22.12.45 A59-71 " " "
- 29.12.45 A59-89 & 65 " " "
- 30.12.45 A59-68 left Labuan for Australia,escorting 4 Mustangs to Amberley.
- 31.12.45 No.13 Squadron stood down at Labuan. Unit officially disbanded.