

A59-83 SF-R

last corrected 18 May 23 - Phil Herdman

27 Jul 44	“Ventura aircraft PVI A59-83 arrived on allotment from 2 AP.”		Amberley - Mackay	13 Sqn A50 83 & Cooktown Watch Log 83 Dep Amb
28-Jul-44	F/O Faux	Mackay - Cooktown		13 Sqn A50 83 & Cooktown Watch Log 83
28 Jul 44	“Received 13 Sqn ex 2 AP.”			Status Card
3-Aug-44		Cooktown - Cooktown	<i>Gunnery</i>	Cooktown Watch Log 83
4-Aug-44		Cooktown - Higgins		Cooktown Watch Log 83
5-Aug-44		Higgins - Cooktown		Cooktown Watch Log 83
9-Aug-44		Cooktown - Cooktown	<i>Local flying 1009-1135hrs</i>	Cooktown Watch Log 83
9-Aug-44		Cooktown - Cooktown	<i>Formation</i>	Cooktown Watch Log 83
10-Aug-44		Cooktown - Cooktown	<i>Formation</i>	Cooktown Watch Log 83
14 Aug 44	SF-R W/O G Anning	Cook-Cook	CMI 31-2 HW Ptl Force BA & Land Cook 140353Z	13 Sqn A51 83 & NEA Comp Ops SF-R/land
16-Aug-44		Cooktown-Gove		Cooktown Watch Log 83
6-Sep-44	SF-R W/O GW Anning	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 3-2 W Ptl Force UU Radar U/S	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/3-2
7-Sep-44	SF-R F/Lt RS Dennis	Gov-Merauke-Ptl-Mer - Gov	Gov 6-5 W Ptl Force DD HMAS Pirie/Islander	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/6-5
10-Sep-44	SF-R F/O AG Goudie	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 12-1 W Ptl Force B HMAS Freemantle/Schwedagan 5.15hr & 1hr nite	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/12-1 & Whitlam log 83/6.15hr
11-Sep-44	F/Lt RS Dennis	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 16-6 W Ptl Force BC HMAS Pirie/Islander Gov 16 3rd detail	13 Sqn A51 83 (Missing 79 Wing page)
17-Sep-44	SF-R F/O AG Goudie	Gov-Hig-Ptl-Hig	Gov 23-6 W Ptl Force C	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/23-6/Hig
18-Sep-44	SF-R F/O AG Goudie	Hig-Ptl-Hig-Gov	Gov 26-4 W Ptl Force BC HMAS Pirie/Thepens 8.3hr	13 Sqn A51 83/Hig-Hig & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/26/Hig-Gov & Whitlam log 83/8.3hr
24-Sep-44	F/O AG Goudie	Gov-Gov	Test	Whitlam log 83/Goudie/test
30-Sep-44	SF-R F/Lt RS Dennis	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 32-2 W Ptl Force D HMAS Freemantle/Edna	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/32-2
3-Oct-44			Gov 37-1, 2 Cancelled U/S runway	13 Sqn A51 37-1 & 2 cancelled.
3 Oct 44	P/O Davies A59-57	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 37-3	13 Sqn A51 A59-57/Davies
3 Oct 44	F/L Moore SF-B, F/O McMahon SF-S, P/O Davies SF-R			79 Wing HQ Air Ops Moore B, McMahon S, Davies R.
5-Oct-44	SF-R F/O AG Goudie	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 39-2 W Ptl Force DC Samuel H Walker 6.20hr	13 Sqn A51 83 & Whitlam log 83/6.20hr & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R
11-Oct-44	SF-R P/O L Davies	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 45-1 Force S Edna	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/45-1
15-Oct-44	SF-R P/O L Davies	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 2-1 Force DD Dilga	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/2-1
16-Oct-44	F/O TJ Branigan	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 3-3 Force TT Oohoo (RTB electrical failure)	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-Y/3-3
18-Oct-44	SF-R S/L RS Dennis	Gov-Ptl-Gov	Gov 5-2 Force BD Mangola	13 Sqn A51 83 & 79 Wing HQ Air Ops SF-R/5-2
19-Oct-44	F/O TJ Branigan	Gov-Sea	Enroute Hig for Gov 84. Crashed sea 10 25s 142 12e or 10 20s 142 05e	Nth Area HQ A50
19 Oct 44	“Ventura aircraft PVI A59-83 crash landed in the sea at approximately 2120K in position 10-25S & 142 12E. Crash was caused through failure of both engines, the starboard cutting at 2030K & after flying on one engine for 50 mins the port engine failed. Aircraft sank in approximately 60 secs. The crew.....were all uninjured & reached Banks Island in their dinghy.”			13 Sqn A50

19 Oct 44 *“Took off from Gove airstrip at approx. 10pm 19/10/44. I as part of the crew being a Fitter 2E & we were about 2 hours out with a 40 knot gale blowing it was a black as sin when I noticed the starboard motor was overheating. I brought to the attention of Skipper Tom Branigan who said who’s flying this plane, go back to your position in the rear. Being the mechanic I watched the motor until such time as it cut out. The Skipper put the port motor into full boost, again went forward to warn that overtaxing of this motor & to cut back on power & again being told to return to my position. I watched the port motor & thinking what my wife with a young family would do without me, when after about an hour the motor caved in & only due to the Skippers flying experience when going down the landing lights picked up the water & instead of going straight in we had enough speed to lift the nose & go in at an angle & when she hit went under but air pressure inside brought her back up & all crew were able to get out & get into the dinghy. We were later picked up by crash boat. Wing Commander Bill Townsend was our C.O. & came over & picked up our crew. Yours faithfully ON Morris 72058 LAC.”*
NAA - MORRIS Ormonde Nicholas A9301 72058.

In the accident report ON Morris is noted as a passenger. (Ed)

23 Oct 44 *“A/C under 20ft water at low tide, 18 miles NE West Is. Crew nav instruments etc landed from dinghy Bardu? picked up RAAF crash launch same night. ? seas strong currents preclude any salvage attempts. Suggest a/c be written off.”* Status Card.

28 Oct 44 *“Approval given write off - NEA to take necessary action to destroy a/c & advise.”* Status Card

13 Nov 44 *“Received 1 RSU ex 13 Sqn.”* Status Card

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

Control Officer's Watch Log Cooktown AWM66 22/1/5

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

Northern Area Headquarters May 41 - January 42 and North Eastern Area Headquarters January 42 - Dec 45. NAA : A9186, 169, 1359521

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

Ventura A59 [Accidents Part 2] NAA: A9845, 115, 6950499 61 - 99

Notes:
3 Oct 44 Aircraft, Pilots, Call signs do not match up between 13 Sqn & 79 Wing recordings.