

RAAF 38 Squadron - The First 50 Years.

by Mark Royle

SQUADRON SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Richmond NSW	1943	No 38 Sqn formed to Establishment No HD at RAAF Station Richmond NSW.
	Sept 15	
Richmond NSW	Nov 07	The first aircraft delivered to 38 Sqn A16-134 a Hudson.
Richmond NSW	Dec 20	The total strength of 38 Sqn 14 Officer Airmen and 3 Aircraft.
Richmond NSW	1944	Moth Minor A21-38 attached to 38 Sqn.
	Feb 09	
Richmond NSW	Feb 24	Tiger Moth A17-721 allotted to 38 Sqn.
Richmond NSW	Feb 25	C47-A Dakota A65-39 allotted to 38 Sqn.
Richmond NSW	Mar 05	Hudson A16-124 crash landed whilst on s run, nil injuries.
Richmond NSW	Mar 12	Hudson A16-122 forced landed whilst on stores run, nil injuries.
Richmond NSW	Apr 12	Unknown aircraft crash landed at Red Bl nil injuries.
Richmond NSW	May 27	Advice from Air Board, Hudson aircraft longer to be used by the Squadron. All to be carried out by Douglas Dakota Aircraft.
Archerfield QLD	Dec 07	Advance party departed Richmond for Archerfield to clean and inspect the site for the Squadrons move to Archerfield
Archerfield QLD	Dec 27	At 1000 hrs 27/12/44 HQ No 38 SQN cease Richmond and located to Archerfield a detachment remained at Richmond to serve Paratroop Training Unit.
Archerfield QLD	1945	A65-62 crashed at Longreach returning from Morotai to Archerfield at approx 0300 h
	Jun 01	
Archerfield QLD	1946	The Squadron moved from Archerfield QLD Schofields NSW
	Aug 15	

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

Archerfield QLD	Aug	After two and a half years, during which compiled some 30,000 hours of transport flying, No 38 Sqn made its last sortie a self contained unit this month. Together its contemporary Transport Squadrons, the unit was absorbed into No 86 Wing for full duties.
Schofields NSW	Sep 18	Aircraft VH-CUT was reported missing between Biak and Maremme and has not been heard since. This is this Squadrons first serious accident in over 20,000 flying hours in S.W.P.A.
Schofields NSW	1947	38(T) Sqn commenced Japan Courier service Aircraft CI departed at 10.15 hrs for Tokyo (Pilot SQNLDR J.D. Balfe)
	Jan 22	
Schofields NSW	May 19	The Sqn completed its Japan Courier commitment to day with the departure of 112 (Pilot SQNLDR J.D. Balfe) Arriving back June 1947.
Schofields NSW	Aug 01	No 38 Squadron was presented the "Duke of Gloucester Cup" for being the most proficient RAAF Squadron for the year 1946/1947.
Schofields NSW	Sep 15	Aircraft RFZ left for Cairns to ferry in Naval personnel from HMAS WARNAMBOOL which was blown up by a mine during mine field clearing.
Schofields NSW	Oct 01	No 38 Sqn recommenced the Japan Courier.
Schofields NSW	Dec 26	Dakota CIN departed for Japan this is the Japan Courier as the route is being taken over by QANTAS on charter to the RAAF. (SQNLDR J.D. Balfe)
Schofields NSW	Mar 04	Due to the rail strike in Queensland No 38 was called upon to carry out Operation "Tucker Box" This operation lasted until the end of March.
Schofields NSW	1948	The Squadron today added Glider Towing to an interesting sphere of training
	Jul 29	

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

Schofields NSW	Sep 03	Search for ANA aircraft VH-ANK which were
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missing of the coast of Sydney. The aircraft was located on Square Top mountain 20 miles from Quirindi.

Richmond NSW	1949	Ten aircraft departed Schofields to Richmond to start setting up the Squadrons new home at Richmond.
	Jun 27	
Richmond NSW	Jul 01	No 38 Squadron completed its move from Schofields to Richmond
Richmond NSW	Jul 06	On instructions from the A.O.C Eastern Area closed camp restrictions were imposed at Station Richmond until further notice. All personnel are now living on base and are allowed to leave the station on duty.
Richmond NSW	1950	An aircraft left Richmond for Williamstown towing a glider for SCLAW demonstration. The glider had to be left at Williamstown due to unfavourable weather.
	May 17	
Richmond NSW	Jun 01	Packing of equipment for the move of No 38 Sqn to Malaya commenced.
Richmond NSW	Jun 02	A65-101 towed a glider from Richmond to Amberley.
Richmond NSW	Jun 19	The first flight of No 38 Sqn advance party departed for Changi.
Changi SINGAPORE	Jun 30	The strength of No 38 Sqn at Changi is 10 Officers and 76 Airmen.
Changi SINGAPORE	Aug 19	A65-112 had a lucky escape when bandits Touraine landed a mortar just 200 yards behind it as it was taking off.
Changi SINGAPORE	Aug 31	The Sqn suffered its first casualty when a Dakota of No 110 Sqn RAF disappeared between Changi and Saigon. Co-Pilot A22152 PLT OF McDonald G.J posted missing believed dead.
Changi SINGAPORE	Nov 20	Four Dakotas from No 38 Sqn were moved to Iwakuni to provide support for No 77 Sqn the United Kingdom Brigade in Korea.

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Changi SINGAPORE	Dec 11	Due to rioting and the killing of Europeans and Eurasians and also property damage, guards were mounted throughout the station and no one was permitted to leave the station except under armed escort.
Changi SINGAPORE	Dec 20	A65-66 crash landed at Auster Strip near

			Kampong Aur, due to an engine failure. C minor cuts and bruises were reported. A6 was written off.
Changi SINGAPORE	1951		A detachment of 38 Sqn has been set up a Station Kuala Lumpar in support of the a supply dropping.
		Apr 10	
Changi SINGAPORE	1952		The Squadrons four aircraft were flown i farewell formation over Changi.
		Dec 05	
Changi SINGAPORE		Dec 08	Aircraft A65-105, A65-64, A65-109 and A6 departed Changi for the last time en rou for RAAF Richmond, the Squadrons new hom again.
Richmond NSW	1953		The name of 36 Sqn was given to 30 Trans in Japan and the aircraft and crews of 3 were absorbed by 38 Sqn.
		Mar 08	
Richmond NSW		Apr 28	The Sqn was involved in the recovery of crashed Lincolns at Cloncurry.
Richmond NSW		Apr 29	Again the Sqn was called out for search rescue work, this time looking for a mis Vampire and Mustang aircraft off of Williamtown.
Richmond NSW		May 29	38 Sqn became involved in Operation "Coronation Fly Past".
Richmond NSW		Jul 16	The Sqn was called out to look for a Wir missing off of Williamtown.
Richmond NSW	1954		Royal Element of No 86 (T) Wing / 38 Sqr commenced tour with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The of Edinburgh.
		Feb 12	

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

Canberra ACT		Mar 13	No 38 Sqn has yet again found another hc of the 13 March 1954 the Sqn will operat from Canberra ACT .
Canberra ACT	1956		A65-96 was sent on SAR duties for Winjee A85-419 which crashed in the Bungendore killing the pilot PLTOFF B.S Best.
		Sep 13	
Canberra ACT		Oct 25	A65-75 departed Amberley for Darwin on operation "Comax Barracuda". The airconf crashed en-route at Daly Waters the next injuring the pilot, co-pilot, and three passengers. The other crew members and

			passengers escaped without injury.
Canberra ACT	1957		While carrying out night circuits A65-11 crashed shortly after take off killing a crew on board.
	Mar 19		
Canberra ACT		Jun 05	A65-96 was ferried to Richmond to be fit for rain making operations.
Canberra ACT	1958		The wing is starting to get ready for the move to Richmond, by ferrying supplies to Richmond.
	Aug 14		
Canberra ACT		Sep 03	All aircraft have now been moved to RAAF Richmond.
Richmond NSW		Dec 13	A65-100 departed Richmond for Broken Bay to photograph the arrival of the "new" Hercules.
Richmond NSW		1959	In the month of August No 38 Sqn was called upon to carry out 3 separate Medivac operations all over the country one auto accident, a man crushed by a tractor and unstated injury resulting in the death of a man.
		Aug	
Richmond NSW		Sep	Again the Sqn carried out 4 more Medivac aid of the civilian community, a small child suffering Tubercular Meningitis, a motor cycle accident victim, one cardiac arrest and a broken neck.
Richmond NSW	1960		No 38 Sqn now has a communication flight attached to it and is operating a Meteor and 3 Meteor MK8 aircraft. The Sqn now operates two types of aircraft the Dakota and Meteor.
	Mar		

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

		Oct 22	A65-92 Was written off when it crashed on landing at Wau PNG. Only slight injuries reported.
Richmond NSW			
Richmond NSW	1961		Two Canberra Bombers A84-204 and A84-307 attached to No 38 Sqn Communication Flight
		Jul 03	
Richmond NSW	1962		Full time SAR duties were assumed by No 38 Sqn following the departure of No 11 (MF) from Richmond.
		Apr 20	
Richmond NSW	1963		A Winjeel aircraft was attached to No 38 Communications Flight.

HOME BASE	DATE	EVENT
	Dec/Jan	
Richmond NSW	Jul	Lectures are being prepared on the Carik and will commence during August.
Richmond NSW	Nov 12	Seven Airmen departed on detachment to C and the USA for training on the Caribou aircraft.
CANADA	1964	The first three Caribou aircraft A4-134, 140 and A4-147 are handed over to the R.
	Apr 10	
Richmond NSW	Apr 22	The first Caribou arrived at RAAF Richmc 1700 hrs 22nd April 1964.
Richmond NSW	Apr 23	No 38 Sqn now operates Caribou, Dakota, Canberra and Winjeel aircraft.
Richmond NSW	Jun 13	The second Caribou ferry arrived at Rich
Richmond NSW	Jul 01	A4-134 crashed on landing at RAN Airstat Nowra NSW the aircraft was a write off.
Richmond NSW	Jul 20	No 38 Sqn sends its troops to war once a This time its off to Vietnam, 29 Officer Airmen left on the 20 Jul 1964.
Richmond NSW	Aug 04	No 38 Sqn became an independent unit wit disbandment of No 86 Wing. All Communica Flight aircraft and personnel have been transferred to No 36 Sqn.

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Richmond NSW	1965	A65-97 was the last Dakota to fly with N 38SQN, the trip was a ferry flight to th CSIRO at Tamworth NSW.
	Jan 12	
Richmond NSW	May 21	A4-202 crashed at Porgera New Guinea the were no fatal injuries, but the aircraft damaged beyond repair.
Richmond NSW	Oct 10	A4-204 carried out a handling display in front of a crowd of over 40,000 people a 38 Sqn?s contribution to RAAF Richmond?s day 1965.
Richmond NSW	Oct 12	A4-164 and A4-225 departed for Port More to form Detachment "A" New Guinea.
Richmond NSW	1968	A4-233 during a post "D" servicing test flight, the pilots had a undercarriage malfunction in which the main gear would extend. The aircraft was landed on just nose wheel and ramp, using a foam path.
	Sep 11	

pilots were one Australian and a Malaysi Caribou conversion. The aircraft was rep at No 38 Sqn and test flown serviceable the 23 Sep 1968.

Richmond NSW	Oct 06	A4-147 was written off after a landing accident at Tapini PNG. The aircraft was converted to spares and is now used as N 38Sqn Field Training simulator.
Richmond NSW	1969 Apr	Even though No 38 Sqn had retired its Da in 1965 the Sqn is still operating Dakot
DET "A" PNG	May 10	Due to disturbances along the West Iriar border all flying has been cancelled.
Richmond NSW	Dec 25	A4-285 arrived in Australia after a ferr flight from Canada.
Richmond NSW	1970 May 15	Several minutes after take off the crew A4-152 experienced a fire in the starboa engine. The fire was extinguished and th cause later found to be a cracked cylinc
BORNEO	May	No 38 Sqn now has Det "B" which is locat Borneo. (This Det was for a short time c

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DET "A" PNG	Nov 13	A4-225 confirmed the position of a warti aircraft wreck that had been reported. T wreck was later found to be a RAAF Dakot missing since 1945.
Richmond NSW	1971 Apr 01	No 38 Sqn was presented the Squadrons Standards by The Marshal of the RAAF, Hi Royal Highness, Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh.
Det "A" PNG	Apr 27	A4-264 over ran the end of the strip a T all the crew escaped injury.
Richmond NSW	Jun 12	A4-299 the last of the RAAF Caribou's ar in Richmond today.
Det "A" PNG	Jul 20	A4-285 left Port Moresby to escort a Nep making for there after an engine fire. T their chagrin they found that a Neptune one engine feathered is still faster tha Caribou.
Det "A" PNG	Aug 01	No 38 Sqn was tasked to carry 138,440 lk heavy earth moving equipment, for the PN public works dept. This task was complet

35 shuttles.

Richmond NSW	Dec 24	Townsville was devastated by cyclone "Al and No 38 Sqn sent A4-225 to help out.
Richmond NSW	1972	No 35 Sqn arrived at Richmond after their tour of Vietnam and are to share No 38 S hangers.
	Feb 26	
Det "A" PNG	Aug 28	On the afternoon of 28 Aug 1972 A4-233 was reported missing between Wau and Mount Y
Det "A" PNG	Aug 31	Late this afternoon an army aircraft spc four survivors on the Korpera River. All aircrew were killed in this accident.
Det "A" PNG	Nov	In the month of Nov 1972 No 38 Sqn Det" carried out 1010 sorties and carried 2,222,909 lbs of freight.

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Det "A" PNG	1973	Det "A" took part in a patrol exercise in Solomon Sea area. This was the first time RAAF Caribous have been used in the Maritime role. The Caribous operated in conjunction with the Defence Forces Patrol Boats.
	Apr 04	
Det "A" PNG	May 19	A4-275 was called out on a SAR for HMAS Tarouk. The wreckage was found on a reef about 50 miles off Port Moresby.
Det "A" PNG	Jun 11-18	During the month of June Det "A" located wartime aircraft wrecks a New Zealand Kittyhawk NZ3141 (Jun 11) and a RAAF Bos (Jun 18) .
Richmond NSW	Jul 02	A4-228 in trials to determine single engine absolute ceiling performance in the PNG
Richmond NSW	Sep 05	Dakota A65-94 was allotted to East Sale A65-108 was allotted to class 6 storage. Effectively No 38 Sqn ceased Dakota operations.
Richmond NSW	Oct 19	The Sqn became the Royal baggage carrier HRH Queen Elizabeth II, during her tour.
Richmond NSW	Nov 01	Dakota A65-108 flew to East Sale ending year association between No 38 Sqn and t Dakota
Richmond NSW	1975	The advance party for Detachment "B" left Richmond for Rawalpindi in Pakistan to provide support for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and
	Mar 02	

Pakistan. The advance party left by civi and the Caribou and its crew followed on Mar.

Richmond NSW	Mar 04	A4-199 departed Richmond for India paint white with blue United Nations markings.
Richmond NSW	Apr 11	A new Sqn record was established when on routine flight 27 Army Officers were car from Richmond to Canberra. The aircraft Crewman managed to produce 27 cups of wh with two from one urn of hot water in or hours flight time.

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Richmond NSW	May 06	The Duke of Gloucester's Cup was present No 38 Squadron for a third time, by His Excellency The Honourable Sir John Kerr KSTJ, QC, Governor General of Australia.
Richmond NSW	Aug 28	A4-140 departed Darwin on a task associa with the unrest in Portuguese Timor.
Det "A" PNG	Dec 21	Detachment "A" effectively disbanded on December, though formal disbandment will to wait until January. During its elever years in PNG, the Detachment flew over 2 hrs.
Rawalpindi DET " B" PAKISTAN	1976	A4-152 carried out-an unscheduled UN Fli to Srinagar and return. Recent snowfalls the area have covered the airstrip in 18 inches of snow delaying some sorties.
	Jan 30	
Richmond NSW	Jul 01	38 SQN expanded in size, taking up the remainder of No 35 SQN when that unit reformed in Townsville.
Rawalpindi DET " B" PAKISTAN	1977	38 SQN Det "B" moved from Srinagar INDIA
	May 01	
Richmond NSW	Jul 21	38 SQN added another claim to its ever growing list, by having to dump 48 cartc hazardous waste into the sea about 60 mi out. By now there mustn't be much left t we haven't done.
Richmond NSW	Oct 31	38 SQN 'B' Flight's newest captain was F S.H. Nelson who was written up as a Cat at the age of only 19 being one of the youngest transport aircraft captain.
Richmond NSW	Dec 16	Bushfires ringed the Richmond area, and again the Squadron was called upon to as

Many of the airmen spent long hours fighting the fires that threatened the homes of the local civilians.

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Rawalpindi DET "B" PAKISTAN	1978	As mentioned in last months report the christian trouble has in fact contribute some civil unrest during the month. Seven deaths among the locals have resulted, but this has been mostly in Karachi. Rawalpindi has remained relatively quiet with some skirmishes and two or three murders during EID-MILAD-UN-NABI (Mohammad's birth celebrations). Several detachment members had to beat a hasty retreat when watching the parade at this time when a couple of hundred of locals took exception to their presence. No damage was done however and the members returned unscathed.
	Feb 20	
Richmond NSW	Oct 18	A4-164 crashed on take-off at Eliptamin
Rawalpindi DET "B" PAKISTAN	Dec 30	A4-264 returned from Delhi-Rawalpindi this was the last UN task to be completed by DET B, after nearly five years in country. 2000 accident free hours flown in country.
Richmond NSW	1980	A4-152 departed Richmond for Vila to support the Vanuatu Government by flying goods and people, following the revolutionary disruption on the island of Espiritu Santo.
	Aug 31	
Richmond NSW	Aug/Dec	38 Squadron has been employed in operations "ESTES" which is the monitoring the oil rigs in and around the Bass Strait.
Richmond NSW	1981	With other units of the RAAF, 38 SQN celebrated the RAAF's Diamond Jubilee at Amberley.
	Apr 05	
Richmond NSW	Nov 07	The freedom of the City of Parramatta was granted to 38 SQN this day and the parade to fly past went off without a hitch.
Richmond NSW	1982	Lillydale (VIC) A4-164 was involved in an airshow and during a break in the display FLTLT D. Innes was on the phone to DOT Melbourne when he witnessed an aircraft crash, a single engined Tobago was destroyed and the pilot lucky to escape with minor injuries. These details were passed on to us as they happened.
	Feb 11	

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

Richmond NSW	Mar 08	Just to add to the excitement of flying Caribous today A4-191 who was being dire by the Army was given instructions to fl through a live mortar range, luckily the range safety officer called a "hold fire time
Richmond NSW	1985 Nov 16	A4-208 was involved in a landing mishap Casino (Backmede strip) when 2.8 metres the right wing was sheared of by a tree.
Richmond NSW	1986 Jul 04	At approximately midday A4-264 crashed w landing at Camden (NSW) there were only injuries but the aircraft was a write of
Richmond NSW	1988 Jan 26	38 SQN and other SQN's flew over Sydney to mark Australia's 200th birthday. 38 S provided a ten ship formation.
Richmond NSW	May 19	38 today was awarded the "Duke of Glouce s Cup" for the period 01 Jul 1986 to 30 1987.
Richmond NSW	Dec 06	Today the SQN gained the now infamous wh hut which is the Field Training Flight s classroom.
Richmond NSW	1989 Apr 22	Today 400 people gathered at 38 SQN to celebrate the 25th year that the Caribou been in service with the SQN.
Richmond NSW	May 26	A4-299 on return from a DLM serv suffere undercarriage malfunction resulting in t left main gear collapsing after shutdown
Richmond NSW	1991 Oct 09	38 SQN entered A4-191 in the RAAF 70th Anniversary Air Show Tactical Navigation Rally, and took out first place in the Military category.
Richmond NSW	Nov 23	While conducting a STOL trainer into Soc Peak TAS A4-235 ran off the end of the s and resulted in the nose wheel collapsir a watery ditch. The aircraft has since k written off.
Richmond NSW	1992 Apr 03	A4-235 was ferried to RAAF Amberley with undercarriage down. It was escorted in a past by three other SQN aircraft.

HOME BASE DATE EVENT

Richmond NSW	Dec 08	38 SQN formally departed Richmond for it
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home at Amberley. 38 SQN has been at Ric most of its life. A spectacular 10 aircraft formation left for the north and just to Amberley we are STOL, all aircraft landed the taxiway in front of the new flight 1

Amberley QLD	Dec 18	38 SQN officially relocated from Richmor began operations at Amberley.
Amberley OLD	1993	At Six Mile Reservoir near Noosa Qld A4-
	Apr 14	was conducting a STOL trainer when it impacted with a tree damaging the left h wing. It goes to show that even a size t Caribou won't fit into a size nine strip
Amberley OLD	Sep 15	38 SQN celebrated its 50th Birthday toda with a parade, fly past and followed by celebration at the Chas Chubb Bar.
Amberley OLD	Sep 17/18	The 50th celebrations continued with a p on the Friday night and open day on the Saturday which preceded the formal 50th Anniversary dinner which was attended by past and present Sqn members. Four of th original members of 38 Sqn attended the dinner which didn't finish until 2 o'clc Sunday afternoon when the last of the pa goers waved goodbye.