

Extracts from Diary of R Horwood concerning experiences he mentions of P.O. W S Watson on Station while in RAAF. (Transcribed by Mrs Watson – mother of P.O. Watson)

R Horwood left On May 5th 1943 for Gib and does not mention Bill (Skeet) until June 1st when he appears to be in Ramsouli India when he writes.

June 1st

Nothing today in Camp, in evening went to town and Berties Café and ran in to Royce, Dinny & Skeet and had a good old yarn. Royce just back from a couple of weeks leave at Nain Tal(?)

July 8th

Flew again in 505 and did formation with Botfell and Dinny also bit of low flying. Went to ton in afternoon and bought some silk, tailor covered it for sending off. Suppose this was the time that Bill sent off a parcel of silk which never arrived,

July 30th

After wing(?) leave caught bus & tram for Lucknow. Arrived morning 9am.

31st July 1943

Whilst having breakfast in walked Skeet Watson on his way to Hills Hospital. Had a good old yarn and took some snaps etc etc

Oct 30th

This morning up early and on DP. Bags of flying all day. Royce and Cohen up in afternoon on local and Skeet and Gandy on Op over River everything quiet. Early morning take off (31st) so had flare out just in time etc, etc

Nov 4th

Gee Herr (?) and Clayton, Roberts & Highfield(?) on early morning TO 4am

Roberts took off and soon after being airborne dived straight into deck. Kite (?) D blew up on impact (contact). Poor old Wally killed. Hickie found 1 hr later in a pool of burning oil & petrol, Roberts beyond hope or rescue. A large crowd watched the crash and didn't have the sense or guts to pull Hickie out of the wreckage, he was burned very badly apart from injuries. All ammo went up

Nov 4th cont

Very shaky do other a/c (aircraft?) didn't take off. This morning 10-30 self, Skeet Watson, Weston and Wills on briefing for trip Hengada Retada(?) the Prome (railway). Took off in K, 12-35 three of us. K O & X S/C & arrived over Issawaddy (?) pretty well on track shot up trucks on line & found a train (goods) about 4 miles outside Prome etc etc

Nov 9th

Skeet & Hunt on a recce do. Skeet had a bit of bad luck on T.O. with latch and after landing TO again. Very little seen on trip landed at 3-30

Dec 1st

On a trip today Thayetrnyo-Magwe in search of paddle steamer. Almost completed trip when a Jap intercepted. Bot & I luckily we go away after he missed Bot. Fletch got in a few shots with rear gun and also a few stoppages. Skeet and Lottie the same way. Skeet & CO chased twice and CO shot up but got on OK. Burma getting a little warm for comfort,

12th Dec

Lottie hit tree near Thargi(?) and knocked about 5 ft off starboard wing and flew back all the way, landed, wheeled 155 knots due for a gong extra good job. Skeet accidentally set off a big fire at Thargi (?)

21st Dec

Andy and Skeet did river stooge and sunk a few sampans.

Record from Diary of R Horwood (Red Book)

Thursday 13th Jan 1944

Royce and the Boys back again from leave in Cal. Midday Gandy paid a little call on Royce, his being on a trip tonight. Briefed for Mandang Road trip, four kites on Hunt Taylor, Royce and self, Royce took "B" and had a lot of intercom trouble, turned back over the Hills. Everyone else arrived over the target area but low cloud too thick nothing done. Hunt dropped to Bangers at Katha not noticing results. Poor Old Royce Very upset about coming back. C.O didn't give him much of a go.

Saturday 4th March 1944

Up fairly early today expecting trip. Nic (?) & I on a long trip tomorrow until C.O decided he-d take my place. Skeet and Hunt on a dicey do tomorrow morning.

Sunday 5th March 1944

Went along to Church this morning. Did air test on F & swung A. Hunt and Skeet did OK on Maymyo trip saw no fighters or flak. Mike got one big engine his photo. Ran out before he got it – is he mad. C.O Nic Willie & Kap off this afternoon Gurski and Walsh on tonight

Thursday 9th March 1944

Last night Skeet Watson and George Buckly on trip, have not returned, assumed missing. Robin Cameron and same trip & had trouble also had to land at Chittagong.