RAAF - B25 MITCHELL AIRCRAFT

Location

BASS STRAIT, UNINCORPORATED

Municipality

UNINCORPORATED

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0075

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number   12206

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:
Heritage Inventory History of Wreck:
Lost 11th December 1944
A47 NA MITCHELL:
The North American NA-62 was one of the best twin-engined, medium bombers of World War II. The first aircraft flew on August 19 1940 and, subsequently, almost 11,000 versions operated with Allied airforces throughout the world. Officially designated the B-25 the bomber was later named the Mitchell in honour of General Mitchell who had been court-martialled in 1925 for his outspoken views on air power. Other generals associated with the aircraft included General Doolittle who led 16 B-25Bs from the aircraft-carrier USS "Hornet" in the historic Tokyo raid on April 18 1942, and General Kenny under whose command B-25C/Ds (Mitchell IIs) were converted at RAAF Townsville for ground strafing. These field modifications culminated in the B-25J (Mitchell III) which was

the most effective version of this famous bomber.

In 1942, the RAAF accepted a number of Mitchells on behalf of the Dutch Government. These aircraft equipped No 18 (Netherlands East Indies) Sqn and by 1945, 150 Mitchells of various marks had been received. In April 1944, No 2 Sqn replaced its Beauforts with Mitchells and the first 39 aircraft (A47-1/39) were transferred from No 18 (NEI) Sqn. A total of 50 Mitchells were operated by No 2 Sqn including 30 Mitchell IIs (A47-1/25, 33/37) and 20 Mitchell IIIs (A47-26/32, 38/50). The Mitchells of Nos 2 and 18 (NEI) Sqns formed No 79 Wing, and these aircraft carried out many successful strikes against enemy targets. At the end of the war, the Mitchells of No 2 Sqn helped evacuate and return many POWs, and the aircraft were finally phased out of service in 1946.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/