



# CEREMONY

to mark the re-equipment of

## HS 817

with the Sea King Mk. 50 Helicopter

H.M.A.S. ALBATROSS

2nd February 1976

## SERVICE

Commodore's Address - Commodore G.E. JERVIS, R.A.N.

### Presentation of Re-Equipment Order

The Commodore delivers the re-equipment order to the Squadron Commander, Commander E.S. BELL, R.A.N.

### Transfer of HS817 Battle Honours

### Invitation to Chaplains

The Commodore shall say:-

*The commands of duty lay upon us all both opportunities and dangers, and therefore it is fit and proper that we should humbly ask the blessing of Almighty God at the beginning of this commission, that He may sustain us in the performance of our duty.*

*Let us then join ourselves in prayer that this squadron may always be under God's protection, and that we ourselves may serve in it to the good of our Queen, the advancement of our Commonwealth, and the glory of God's most Holy Name.*

*I therefore invite the Chaplains to ask a blessing on this Squadron.*

The Lord's Prayer (said together)

PSALM 139 (said responsively)

- V. *Lord, you have examined me, and you know me.*
- R. You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts.
- V. *You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions.*
- R. Even before I speak you already know what I will say.
- V. *You are all around me, on every side; you protect me with your power.*
- R. Your knowledge of me is overwhelming; it is too deep for me to understand.
- V. *Where could I go to escape from your Spirit? Where could I get away from Your presence?*
- R. If I went up to heaven, you would be there; If I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.
- V. *If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*
- R. Even there you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.
- V. *I could ask the darkness to hide me, or the light around me to turn into night.*
- R. But even the darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you.
- V. *You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb.*
- R. I praise you because you are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful, I know it with all my heart.
- V. *God, how precious your thoughts are for me; how many of them there are!*
- R. If I counted them, they would be more than the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.
- V. *Examine me, God, and know my mind; test me and discover my faults.*
- R. Find out if there is any deceit in me, and guide me in the eternal way.



### PRAYER FOR THE NAVY

*Eternal God, Creator of the heavens and Ruler of the raging seas, take under Your powerful protection and bless all ships and personnel of the Royal Australian Navy. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and strengthen us so that we may faithfully serve Her Majesty the Queen and the people of the Commonwealth of Australia. With the help of others who love freedom, may we be able to ensure security for all those who lawfully travel the seven seas, and by our efforts maintain for all people the possibility of serving You in peace and justice all through their lives, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

*AMEN.*

### THE BLESSING OF THE SQUADRONS

By the Protestant Chaplain:-

*May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, direct and prosper these Squadrons and all who fly in them, now and always.*

*AMEN.*

By the Roman Catholic Chaplain:-

*May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon these Squadrons and remain with them always.*

*AMEN.*

### PRAYER FOR THE FLEET AIR ARM

*O Eternal God, the maker of heaven and earth, send your blessing on us your sons, and these Squadrons in which we serve. Grant us your protection; make us steadfast in the time of trouble, resourceful in the face of danger, and bring us at the last to your everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

*AMEN.*

## HYMN

*Lord, guard and guide all those who fly  
Throughout the vastness of the sky;  
Direct them always in their flight,  
Uphold them ever by Thy might;  
O hear us when we lift our prayer  
For those who serve Thee in the air.*

*O Trinity of Love and power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoever they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

## THE BLESSING

*Presentation and Address by the Flag Officer  
Commanding Her Majesty's Australian Fleet,  
Rear Admiral G.V. GLADSTONE, D.S.C., and Bar*

## MARCH PAST



## HS 817 SQUADRON

**MOTTO:** *AUDE FACERE - I Dare To Do*

First formed in the Royal Navy in 1941, and operated Albacore aircraft in the Anti-Submarine role in Icelandic waters and the Mediterranean. In 1943 the squadron reformed with Barracudas and carried out operations in Sumatra and the Nicobar area before disbanding in 1945.

Recommissioned as an RAN squadron with Fairey Firefly aircraft in 1950, and whilst embarked in HMAS SYDNEY, served with distinction in the Korean conflict. In 1955 the squadron disbanded and reformed with Fairey Gannet aircraft until disbanding again in 1958.

HS 817 recommissioned in 1963 with the Westland Wessex Mk. 31A helicopter which was updated to the Mk. 31B in 1968.

### SEA KING Mk. 50

The Westland Sea King is an advanced twin-engined helicopter primarily intended for all weather operations in the Anti-Submarine and Search and Rescue roles, but can be used for a large variety of other tasks.

Installed equipment includes tactical radar, medium range sonar and an advanced automatic flight control system, as well as comprehensive navigation and communication equipment.

**POWER PLANT:** Two Rolls-Royce Gnome H1400-1 gas turbine engines developing 1590 S.H.P. each.

**PERFORMANCE:** Maximum take-off weight 9525 Kg (21,000 lb).  
Cargo capacity: 2.721 Kg.  
Ferry range over 500 nautical miles.