



No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron RAAF



No. 23 Squadron was formed in 1937, and in 1939 was based at Archerfield Queensland as a reconnaissance and training unit equipped with Anson aircraft. At the outbreak of the Second World War the squadron was re-equipped with Wirraway aircraft and Hudson Bomber aircraft.

From the beginning of the war until late 1943 No. 23 Sqn used the Redland Shire airspace for all tactical and fighter training, prior to deployment to the war zones. During this training No. 23 squadron lost several aircraft due to accidents and forced landings in the Redland Shire. The most noteworthy being the loss of a Hudson bomber on the 12th of August 1940 off Jumpinpin and the midair collision of two Wirraway aircraft on Friday the 13th of February 1942 over Thornlands. These two accidents alone cost the lives of 10 airmen in the Redland Shire.

In mid-1942 No. 23 Sqn briefly relocated to Amberley and Lowood and was redesignated as a Dive Bomber Squadron using Vultee Vengeance aircraft. After further training in Redland airspace and other areas, No. 23 Sqn moved to Nadzab, New Guinea in early 1944 and engaged in strike and bombing operations.

In November 1944 No. 23 Sqn was re-designated as a heavy bomber squadron and converted to the B-24 liberator bomber and along with other squadrons formed the No. 82 Heavy Bomber wing flying out of long airfield Darwin.

No. 23 Sqn Liberators flew maritime and land strike operations from their Darwin and Morotai airfields against the Japanese forces in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies until the Japanese surrender in August 1945.

In 1948 No. 23 Sqn was designated as a Citizen Air Force (CAF) squadron based at Archerfield in Queensland.

In 1955 No. 23 Sqn was relocated from Archerfield to RAAF Amberley and was equipped with Mustang, Vampire and Meteor aircraft.

In May 1957 the Squadron officially becomes No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Sqn.

In 1960 No. 23 Sqn ceased all flying operations, and the Squadron became a Citizen Air force training and technical support squadron at Amberley.

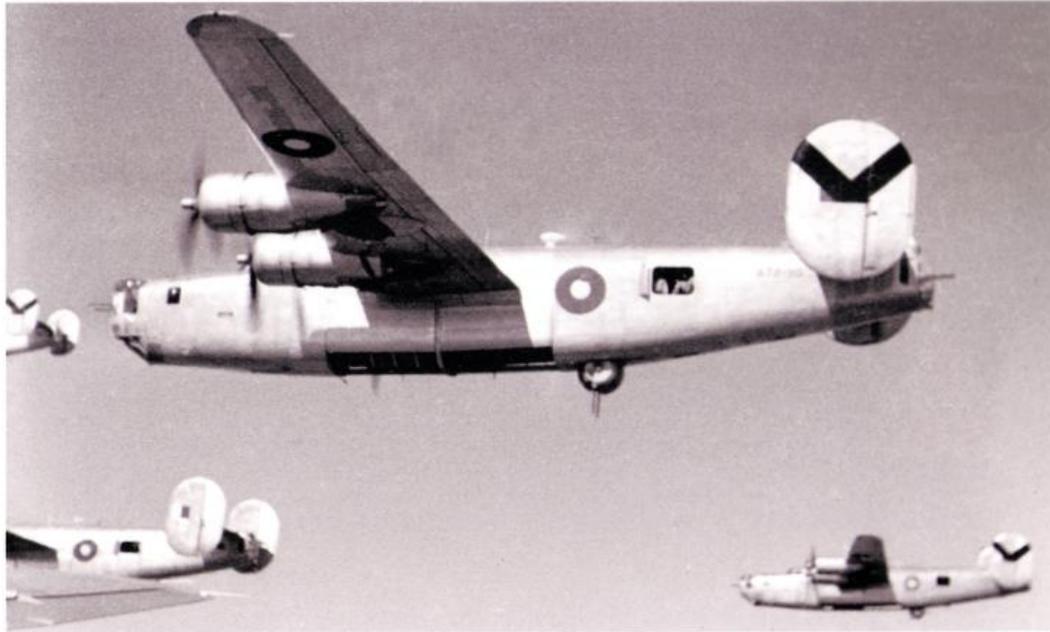
In 1980, No. 23 Sqn was redesignated as a RAAFAR (Active Reserve) Squadron with a revised mission "To provide reservists with skills to contribute to the contemporary RAAF and ADF operations".

In 2010, No. 23 (City of Brisbane Sqn) was transferred to the Permanent Airforce as part of the RAAF Combat Support Group and today is one of the largest Squadrons at RAAF Base Amberley and is responsible for all RAAF Amberley fixed base assets.

During the RAAF 100-year centenary in 2021 the RAAF No. 23 SQN also celebrated its 84th Anniversary.



No. 23 (HB) Squadron, RAAF, at Darwin, NT, June–August 1945
Print no. 50
Bomb bay doors open and the ball turret lowered.



No. 23 (HB) Squadron, RAAF, at Darwin, NT, June–August 1945
Print no. 46
Pre-flight checking of S/Ldr Cupper's aircraft on the tarmac at RAAF Darwin station.

