

Dakota In Aerial Survey Work

The Command Dakota of RAAF Darwin has recently been working in conjunction with the Army and Navy in a large ground and aerial survey of the Kimberley area of West Australia.

The task of the Dakota was to air-drop aviation fuel in selected areas for helicopter operations and supply fuel and rations to Army SAS detachments in the field.

The Royal Australian Survey Corps is surveying an area never before covered by man.

W Off L. Giffin reports that the actual droppings and landings were carried out in two phases.

Phase one involved the aircraft departing Darwin for Derby on May 10. After remaining overnight at Derby, the aircraft made drops at Scott Strait and Prince Frederick Harbour in the Bonaparte Archipelago 150 miles north of Derby.

Phase two commenced on May 19 from Wyndham.

The following morning ten drums of aviation fuel were landed at Kalumburu Mission.

The aircraft was then flown to Derby where it was based for three days. During this time six air drops were completed.

The crew comprised Wg Cdr

S. Bradford, DFC, Flg Off H. Pepper, Flg Off C. Roff, W Off L. Giffin, LAC D. Galway and four Army dispatchers.

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