



Although the top photo is slightly out of focus as far as the Hudson goes (the focus is further back, on the Vampires), this perhaps accidental capture of East-West's VH-EWR taxiing at RAAF Williamtown is one of the last photos of an Australian-operated Hudson taken at an RAAF base prior to the survivors becoming museum exhibits. The aircraft was visiting in the late 1950s in connection with drogue-towing flights, work that was shared with Adastral. The middle photo shows the same aircraft at Essendon, Victoria, in 1962 during its last work as a cloud seeder. The small print along the middle top of the fuselage reads 'Special Projects Division Rainmaking'. Note the metal-skinned cockpit canopy cover and windowless nose. The bottom photo shows a close-up of the silver iodide burners fitted to each wing tip. Given the similarity of the burners to small gas turbines, Arch Smith commented that they "were the cause of much speculation when viewed by strangers". As a rainmaker the tanks for the burners were installed in the bomb bay. (top photo Errol O'Hara via Paul Mason/Ian Primmer, others courtesy Neil Follett)

