

July 1945 Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events				
Jessore	July	1945	Part I Operations				
			<p>Determination on the part of the crews to reach their objectives in face of typical heavy monsoon weather has been the keynote of this month's operations. On one occasion it required no less than seven attempts on the part of the crew before a sortie was successfully completed. With the dispersal of the Liberator Flight to China Bay; concluded last month, operational sorties by the Squadron on this station were confined to the Dakotas; 84 sorties were flown for the month, and average of over 2 a day for the whole of the month. Of these 54 were successful or partially so; the failure of the other 30 sorties was due in the main to weather conditions and only a very small proportion failed through lack of reception or other causes. With the almost complete termination of the campaign in Central Burma, the focus of objectives tended to shift to the East and South East, and apart from normal supply dropping in Burma the Squadron concentrated a considerable amount of its energy in long range trips over Siam. This entailed the use of advanced airfields in Burma on a much larger scale than was previously necessary, particularly Mingaladon; crews being briefed to stay there until their missions were completed. Our forces in the Character area were continuing to meet with stiff opposition from the Japanese all through the month thus demanding a constant delivery of supplies, the Squadron flying a total of 41 sorties for them alone. Losses sustained during the month amounted to one Dakota KJ922, crew 658498 W/O Milne, J. R., 1518745 Sgt. Clark, R? M., 15211725 Sgt. Francis, G. R., 1597461 Sgt. Mowat, D. and 1598599 Sgt. Binns, A., missing. The a/c took off from Base at 0630 hours on 30th July 1945. A further report was not received until 9th August 1945 when it was learnt that the a/c had crashed into the side of a valley down which it was flying; some 4 miles West of Biya; the crew of five were all killed. Another a/c operating on the same target was forced to turn back owing to impossible weather conditions and reported an operational failure, weather conditions along the route being reported as 8-10/10 CB. base 2-3000' (approx 7000' below the tops of the Chin Hills) & cloud tops up to 25-30000' with excessive turbulence causing a/c to be almost uncontrollable at times. Under these conditions it can be safely assumed that W/O Milne's crash was as a direct result of the weather over the area, in fact, weather over the Chin and Shan hills had during a month of already bad weather succeeded throughout in achieving a personal notoriety.</p>				
			Operational Synopsis				
			Jessore				
				Dakota			
Code Name	Country	Area	Pos.	S.	U.	Total	Remarks
Character	Burma	Shwebo		20	21	41	The unsuccessful sorties were in all but 2 cases due to bad weather; the other two failures were due to lack of reception.
Nutshell	Burma			5		5	
Heavy	Burma	Kientung		5	1	6	The one unsuccessful sortie was due to weather.
Pilot	Burma			3	3	6	The unsuccessful sorties were due in two cases to no reception; the third was a search.

			not later than 03.30 hours daily; failure to comply with this order will result in personnel being omitted from the Hill Party.
	July 19th		It is brought to the notice of all personnel that the surrounding villages and district of Santola Camp are out of bounds to all personnel, and severe disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.
	July 25th		Owing to a severe outbreak of Cholera among the civil population at Frenigar? All personnel proceeding there for either Courses or Leave must be protected by inoculation not less than 48 hrs prior to proceeding
	July 28th		All personnel are notified that His Excellency General Sir Claude Auchinleck, GCB, GCIF, CFI, DSO, OBE, ADC, C-in-C India is visiting this Station on Sunday next, the 29th July 1945 and an inspection of the entire Station will be carried out.
	July 30th		Personnel are reminded that Station Sick Quarters is closed to everyone, with the exception of Special Sick from 12.30 hrs to 16.00 hrs. daily.
Jessore	July 1945		Welfare
	July 2nd		Stacks of £2 Duty Free Labels are exhausted; only £4, £6 & £8 remaining notification will be made when new stock arrives.
	July 4th		Ballot papers and Election Addresses are now being received by Personnel who completed F2761 and F2762 from their constituencies.
	July 5th		The Ensa Show 'To your liking', will be presented in the Station Canteen and will run for three evenings, namely July 5th, 6th & 7th.
	July 7th		It is announced that a stock of Duty Free Labels value £2 is now on hand.
	July 9th		A Whist Drive was held in the Canteen Lounge tonight at 20.00 hrs.
	July 15th		A monsoon Race Meeting was held the afternoon on the Football Field behind Station Sick Quarters.
	July 16th		The Ensa Show 'Why Worry' is being presented at the Station Canteen commencing this evening and running for three days.
	July 21st		It has been brought to the notice of all Personnel that Air Mail Letter Cards are not to be used for inter-command correspondence, but are solely for addresses outside of India.
			Recreation
	July 11th		It is announced that the Squadron has obtained eight pairs of Football Boots of various sizes which will be loaned to personnel at the rate of four annas a game to cover the cost of repairs and replacement. Application for the loan of same should be made to L.A.C. White (Armament Section)
			A number of inter-section football matches were played during the course of the month.
			Church Services O.D.
	July 4th		It was announced today that an alteration has been made in the times of week day services as follows. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Each service to commence at 19.45 hrs and not 19.30 hrs.
			Part III Personnel
Jessore	July	1945	R.A.F. Officer's POR's 5th, 23rd, 24th, and 31st July 1945
			Postings
			56237 P/O S. H. Seed GD(P) Posted to No 357 Squadron on grant of a commission in the GD Branch of the R.A.F.V.R. w.e.f. 16/5/45.
			164107 F/O G. H. Lawrence GD(BA) Posted from No. 357 Squadron (supernumerary) to No. 357 Sqdn (F/Lt Adjutant Post) w.e.f. 28/6/45.
			166322 F/O T. B. Bostock? GD(N) Posted from RAF Station Poona (for flying duties) w.e.f. 29/6/45
			166390 F/O J. B. Howell GD(AB)
			166072 F/O W. H. Leeved?? GD(N)
			152551 F/O G. H. March GD(P)

		166071 F/O. S. W. Smith GD(P)	
		164242 F/O S. G. Dove GD(S)	Posted to H.Q. No. 908 Wing w.e.f. 11/7/45.
		54737 ¹ P/O S. H. Seed GD(P)	Posted to B.R.D. Worli pending repatriation w.e.f. 29/6/45.
		53428 F/O G. W. F. Chapman GD(P)	Posted to this unit from R.A.F. Station Poona w.e.f. 17/6/45.
		151717 F/O R. N. Forrest GD(P)	
		55085 F/O D. Powell GD(P)	
		166554 P/O J. Walmough? GD(P)	
		167437 P/O G. S. Heaps GD(AB)	
		166364 P/O R. M. Davies WOP(AG)	Posted to this unit from R.A.F. Station Poona w.e.f. 25/6/45.
		63818 S/Ldr P. R. Ganbell? DFC GD(P) (A/W/Cdr)	Posted to 357 Sqdn. w.e.f. 27/7/45
		137614 F/Lt J. Irvine GD(NAV)	Posted from 357 Sqd. t H.Q. No. 231 Group. w.e.f. 1/3/45.
		Promotions and Appointments.	
		56237 P/O. S. Seed. GD(P)	Appointed to commissioned rank as P/O w.e.f. 2/3/45.
		141559 F/O D. H. Hulme GD(NB)	Promoted F/Lt w.e.f. 27/3/45 (w.s.)
		151159 F/O S. F. Stevens D.F.C. GD(NAV)	Promoted F/Lt (w.s.) w.e.f. 26/1/45.
		164804 P/O R. D. Butler GD(NAV)	Promoted to F/O (w.s.) w.e.f. 7/10/44.
		165515 P/O A. W. Cumber GD(NAV)	Promoted to F/O (w.s.) w.e.f. 16/12/44.
		166322 P/O T. B. Bostock? GD(N)	Promoted to F/O (w.s.) w.e.f. 8/3/45.
		Medals and Decorations.	
		115288 F/Lt. L. G. Lewis, D.F.M. (GD)P	Awarded the D.F.C. Auth: HQ. AC. SEA. airgram 725/25/2/P1 dated 23/7/45.
		RCAF Officers POR's 20th, 23rd & 31st July 1945	
		Postings	
		J.47869 P/O G. Faulkner GD(WAG)	Posted from no. 357 Squadron to B.P.O. non effective missing w.e.f. 6/6/45
		J.47871 P/O W. P. McLeod GD(WAG)	
		J.47344 P/O J. J. Perron GD (NAV)	
		J.47321 P/O W. W. Reeve GD(AB)	
		J.12779 F/O A. F. Timmermens GD(P)	
		Appointments and Promotions	
		Can.J.45124 P/O G. F. MacKelvin? GD (N)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 5/11/44.
		Can.J.45945 P/O J. N. Friesen GD(N) (Deceased) 1/4/45	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 2/12/44.
		J.47321 P/O W. W. Reeve GD(AB) (Killed 6/6/45)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 28/1/45.
		J.10354 F/O B. G. Hewson GD(P)	Promoted F/Lt (T) w.e.f. 1/11/43
		J.45989 P/O K. M. Merriam GD(AB) (Killed 1/4/45)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 2/12/44
		J.47457 P/O J. M. Flanagan GD(G)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 28/1/45.
		J.47453 P/O G. M. Hergus? GD(G)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 28/1/45.
		J.45823 P/O G. A. Mackey GD(NAV)	Promoted to F/O (T) w.e.f. 2/12/44.

¹ Note this service number is slightly different than the one given for Seed above.

		J.23405 F/O A. B. Coy GD(P)	Promoted F/Lt (T) w.e.f. 28/4/45.
		Medals and Decorations	
		J.6644 F/Lt T. R. Lee GD(P) (A/S/Ldr)	Awarded the D.F.C. auth HQ AC, SEA dated 28/6/45.
		J.22963 F/Lt J. A. Ring GD(P)	Authorised to wear the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Auth A.M.O. A.73/44.
		J.44512 F/O K. M. Oddson GD(P)	
		J45967 F/O W. E. Stevens GD(NAV)	
		J.45844 P/O D. K. Jordan GD(AB)	
		J.45936 F/O H. F. Wagnet GD(AG)	
		R.A.A.F. Officer's POR's 27th & 31st July '45	
		Postings	
		A.426876 P/O K. N. Heilbronn GD(WOP.AG)	Posted to No 357 Sqdn on grant of commission in RAAF w.e.f. 26/7/45.
		A.413266 F/O M. D. Seale DFC GD(NAV)	Posted from the supernumerary Strength of 357 Sqdn to F/Lt Navigator Post of 357 Sqdn. Det. China Bay w.e.f. 20/5/45.
		Appointments and Promotion	
		A.426876 P/O K. N. Heilbronn GD(WOP.AG)	Appointed to commissioned rank as P/O in RAAF w.e.f. 29/3/45.
		R.N.Z.A.F. Officers POR's 29/7/45	
		Postings	
		N.Z.415285 P/O J. H. Boundy Nav.B.	Posted to No 357 Sqdn on grant of commission in RNZAF w.e.f. 24/4/45.
		Appointments and Promotions.	
		N.Z.415285 P/O J. H. Boundy Nav.B.	Appointed to commissioned rank as P/O in GD Branch, of RNZAF w.e.f. 12/9/45.
		357 (SD) Sqdn. Statement of Personnel Strength	
		As of July 31st 1945	
		Airmen	Officers
		Total	
		R.A.F.	663
		R.C.A.F.	31
		R.A.A.F.	12
			63
			33
			7
			Total
			809
		Signed	
		For Wing Commander	
		Commanding No 357 (SD) Squadron R.A.F.	