

June 1945: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Jessore	June	1945	Operation Part 1
			This month has seen the rapid dispersal of No. 357 (SD) Sqdn. as all the liberators were detached or posted except for one or two which are being used to transport crews equipment to the new base. Either to "Minneriya" or to the true base at "China Bay". Almost all the Liberators left between the 19/6/45 and the 26/6/45 and with them left the majority of the Squadron Staff. The detachment at "Minneriya" is to be continued at that station till all the A/C have been incorporated at "China Bay", and have started full operational sorties again. This is to ensure that no slackening of operations will be felt during the vital June moon period. Then the detached A/C will be sent to join the complete Liberator Flight at "China Bay". It is expected & indeed rumoured that the 'Dakotas' will be sent to either "Rangoon" or "Toungoo", preferably the former. This supposition is heightened by the fact that a detachment is already at "Toungoo" whilst some of the "Dakota" ground crews have been posted down to "Rangoon" to prepare for the move. Even with all those detachments & postings eight (8) sorties will be flown on the first night or should I say day of the month and seven (7) on the 8th of the month, with several in-between So that no slackening of the effort has been felt. Of the sorties flown by the detached force and Minneriya no word has been received and it is expected that they too have been steadily at work.
			"Toungoo" is being used as a refuelling depot for the Dakotas and of late several operations have been attempted & have proved successful due to the A/C being able to return & refuel & also collect briefing on new DZ's when the primary briefed ones have been found to be either u/s or the weather has been too bad to allow A/C to reach DZ. This added advantage has been to a great deal, compensation for the difficulties experienced by the crews due to the weather which to say the least is BAD. This bringing us to our old subject the weather in genial. According to the crews its mostly "all wet". At the beginning of the month the weather was not too bad, but there were plenty of storms over "Burma", though they have been fairly well weathered and the visibility has been about 8 to 10 miles in almost all cases. With the advent of these storms, and their severity, it has become much harder if not impossible to fly a true course and so there has been a great deal of map reading to be done to keep track on the A/C position. Around the 10th of June the weather became very bad and many of the A/C had to return without being able to drop their loads. This spell lasted until the 16th of June when the weather began to clear a little and from Toungoo the A/C made several successful sorties. From this time on the Liberators were being prepared to leave for "Ceylon"
			Due to the weather at Toungoo the airstrip has become u/s due to sinking so the "Dakota" detachment has returned here bringing its sortie reports. As of this month the historical records will have to be made up from the different stations. With the advent of the Toungoo detachment returning to take a considerable amount of news of their exploits have been produced. For this whole stay the monsoon had considerable to do with their flights as an extensive layer of Su & Cu lay over the land at all times. When short distance trips were on the whole successful. it should be noticed that the new crews who were sent down to be trained did quite well and may now be treated as veterans, for the conditions under which they flew would by the most experienced crews be termed bad. It should also be understood that due to the increased activity of the 'Character' force a considerable improvement of

			DZ sites has been noticed which alone has made the dropping of supplies easier, and with almost 4 DZ to choose from on all sorties the A/C had much in its favour. It is hoped that as soon as the "Dakota" flight can move to its new base, more operations will be laid on, and the troops in the various DZ's will feel a lessening of their stress due to a great force backing						
			Operation Synopsis						
Code Name	Country	Area	Liberator		Dakota		Total	Remarks	
			S	U	S	U			
								Jessore	
Parterre?	Siam	Leur	--	--	1	--	1	Pick up operation. All O.K.	
Dilwyn	Burma	Hesani	--	--	3	--	3		
								Jessore	
Character	Burma	Shweybo	--	2	14	6	22	The weather was very bad at times preventing 8 A/C from dropping.	
								Toungoo Detachment	
Character	Burma	Shweybo	--	--	43	16	59	The only unsuccessful sorties were occasioned by an extensive layer of Su & Cu which lasted almost without a break in some parts of the area.	
								Jessore	
Nation	Burma	Kempayo	1	--	3	2	6	The two unsuccessful sorties were due to very bad weather.	
Hebrides	Malaya	Coabang	1	--	--	--	1		
Carpenter	Malaya	Mersing	1	--	--	--	1		
Mint	Malay		1	--	--	--	1		
Nutshell	Burma		--	--	3	3	6	The unsuccessful sorties were again due to weather.	
Appreciation	Siam		1	--	--	--	1		
Bazaar	F.I.C.		--	2	--	--	2	Engine trouble intervened on both flights.	
Chalet	F.I.C.		--	2	--	--	2	No reception first trip incorrect reception on second occasion.	
Desert	F.I.C.	Sieng Khong	1	--	--	--	1		
Heavy	Burma	Kientung	1	--	--	--	1		
Blast	Burma	Nyaun Glerin	--	--	1	1	2	Weather bad.	
Pilot	Burma		--	1	--	--	1		
Neronian	Siam		--	1	1	--	2		
Diagram	Siam	Bk. Dokny	--	--	1	--	1		
Coupling	Siam		1	--	--	--	1		
Favour	Siam	Hon-He-Vom??	1	--	--	--	1		
Nuneral	Siam		--	--	1	--	1		
			Total Liberator Sorties 17						
			Total Dakota Sorties 99						
			Operational Sorties Flown June 1945. 116						
			Statement of A/C Strength						

			For June, as of 30th June 1945
			Dakotas    Liberators    Harvards
			KJ913        KH166        FS989
			KJ914
			KJ919
			KJ920
			KJ922
			LJ924
			KJ925
			KJ926
			KN304
			KN263
Jessore	June	1945	Part II Administration
	2 June		Mepachrine has been ordered to be taken by all personnel and has been distributed to all sections.
	2 June		It is noted that air letter cards will be distributed on the pay parades.
	4 June		The Cloak-Dagger (PSI Canteen) open to all ranks. Program for tonight "Tambola". The snowball at the present time is 75 yrs for 60 members.
	6 June		An order of the day by Air Commodore F. J. Melleon, Air Commander, SEAAF reads:
			On the closing down of the fully integrated Eastern Air Command Headquarters, the Strategic Air Force has been disbanded with effect 1st June 1945. From this date the RAF heavy bomber squadrons of the Strategic Air Force will come under the contract of HQ231 Group RAF.
			I want to send most hearty thanks to all members of the USAAF squadrons of the 7th Bombardment Group and to the RAF squadrons, who have operated under my command in the Strategic Air Force. Their record has been magnificent and this contribution to the great Victory over the "Japanese" in the Burma Campaign has been considerable.
			On the departure of the 7th Bombardment Group from the Strategic Air Force I send them all my best wishes for their future success in whatever theatre of war they may be called upon to operate. It is with the deepest regret that I see them go but I know it is with increasing effect that they will continue the fine work which they have done in Burma. Good luck to them all.
			To the RAF squadrons of the Strategic Air Force who will now operate under 231 group I send my very best wishes. I know that they will continue to give great service and I wish them all the best of luck.
			End.
	16 June		The Jessore races for the Jessore Plate have been unavoidably cancelled. All ranks felt a very keen disappointment as the last races was a great success.
	20 June		A fair well party and the presentation of the soccer cups by the Commanding Officer, W/Comr. L. M. Hodges, D.S.O. D.F.C. to the Armament and Instrument bashers. A whole months supply of beer was put in hiding and several people were slightly intoxicated at the end of the party.
	16 June		An ENSA band show "Swing Time" was enacted in the RAF canteen & met with a tremendous ovation. Apparently the boys like that kind of hotness.
	20 June		The Sqdn Post office has been moved to Sqdn. H.Q. Blue letter cards will be available at the SWO's office on Thursday 28 June.
			Welfare.
	2 June		Broadcasts for the General Election were posted today for all men to see & (hear).

	4 June		All postal voting forms have to be in today.
	13 June		Welfare Producers are asking for talented artists for shows to be drawn from the services.
	13 June		The Welfare ½ hour from VVZZU has had to be disbanded.
	15 June		A catalogue of Dance music has been received for the Unit Dance band. But the band has gone to "China Bay".
	24 June		The ceiling fans are to be removed and forwarded to the new unit.
			Recreation.
			Many games of soccer & hockey have been played against 136 R.S.U. & 358 Sqdn. to wind up the Sqdn play at this station.
			Ecclesiastical
			A new padre has been attached to the station. Padre Couthard S/Ldr. OD and as S/Ldr. Scott has not yet returned it has been arranged that the D of E Padre from Dhvhalm will officiate Padre Couthard
			The C of E & RC churches held holy communion at 0750 hrs on the 10th June.
			The most important Administrational Function of this month is of course the Movement Order – which has completed the Liberator Detachment to Ceylon. The Libs at present stationed at Jessore, aircrews and advanced ground crews left on the 20th June 1945. and then the movement of the Liberators Detachment at present at Minneriya will leave about 1st July 1945.
Jessore	June	1945	Part III Personnel
			Postings RAF
			51457 F/O. W. G. P. Macche Tech(E) Posted from H.Q. RAF Burma to No.357 Sqdn W.E.F. 8/6/45
			177701 F/O. D. G. Jemnings GD(F/Eng) Posted from HQ 231 Group to 357 Sqdn W.E.F. 21/5/45
			165395 F/O. K. C. Williams GD(N) Posted to H.Q.A.C.S.E.A. from 357 Sqdn W.E.F. 30/5/45
			164242 P/O. S. G. Dove GD(WAG) Posted ex U.K. 9/11/44. Deplaned "Karachi" 2/11/45 Posted to 357 Sqdn W.E.F. 12/11/44 Arrived 28/1/45
			181732 P/O. P. L. Darlington GD(P) 1890464 P/O. H. V. Hallet GD(P) Posted ex UK 15/5/45 to 347 Sqdn W.E.F. 13/6/45 arrived 23/6/45.
			196638 P/O. G. H. Middleton GD(N) Posted to 357 Sqdn on appointment to commissioned rank WEF. 23/6/45
			159947 F/O. W. R? Birch GD(WG) Posted to No. 5 B.P.U. WEF. 20/6/45
			196769 P/O. W. J. V. Surrage GD(P) 197231 P/O. J. B. Nelson GD(WOM AG) Posted to 357 Sqdn on appointment to commissioned rank WEF 28/6/45.
			F/O. L. Nelson 156478 Tech(E) Acting F/Lt. paid WEF 15/3/45
			171425 F/O. D. V. Foster MED Promoted F/Lt. (WS) WEF 9/3/45
			139970 F/O. H. Deen GD(P) Promoted F/Lt. (WS) WEF 11/11/44
			196638 P/O. G. H. Middleton GD(N) Promoted to P/O. WEF 2/3/45
			196769 P/O. W. J. V Surrage GD(P) Promoted to P/O. WEF 10/3/45
			197831 P/O. J. B. Nelson GD(WOM/AG) Promoted to P/O. WEF 28/3/45
			RCAF Postings

		J26150 F/O. A. G. Buzza GD(P)	Posted from No. 231 Group to No. 357 Sqdn. WEF. 1/6/45
		J47311 P/O. A. Thombrat GD(A/G)	
		J47367 P/O. V. T. McNaughton GD(N)	
		J44824 P/O. W. H. Edwards GD(P)	
		J47452 P/O. J. Scott <sup>1</sup> GD(A/G)	
		J47456 P/O. R. M. Cartman GD(A/G)	
		J12694 F/Lt. J. G. Blinkhorn GD(P)	Posted to HQ RAF Base Bombay (supy Non Effective sick) WEF 6/6/45.
		J24042 F/Lt. W. M. Caron GD(N)	Posted to BRD Worli Embarkation WEF 29/6/45
		J15002 F/Lt. J. R Alverson GD(N)	
		J4115 F/Lt. J. D. Lamb GD(P)	
		J45168 P/O. D. A. Blad GD(N)	
		J45210 P/O. D. H. Heller GD(AG)	
		J46064 P/O. S. V. Hillis GD(WG)	
		J44365 F/O. A. O. Hovgan GD(P)	
		J29528 F/O. H. J. McFadyen GD(P)	
		J47494 F/O. W. Parslow GD(AG)	
		J45070 F/O. H. G. Walling GD(AB)	
		J94581 P/O. E. P. Zinnerman GD(WG)	
		Promotions	
		J44516 P/O. J. B. Millar GD(P) (Deceased)	Promoted to F/O WEF 21/10/44
		J46053 P/O. A. G. Diggings GD(WG)	Promoted F/O WEF 2/11/44
		J46787 P/O. F. B. Spence GD(WG)	Promoted F/O WEF 30/12/44
		J46744 P/O P. Pomazon GD(WG)	Promoted F/O WEF 30/12/44
		J23275 F/O. W. J. C. Jackson GD(P)	Promoted F/Lt WEF 5/2/45
		J45250 P/O J. L. Biernes GD(AG)	Promoted F/O WEF 5/11/44
		J45348 P/O W. O. McDongald GD(AG)	Promoted F/O WEF 5/11/44
		J45134 P/O. G. F. McKelvie GD(N)	Promoted F/O WEF 5/11/44
		J45945 P/O. J. N. Freison GD(N)	Promoted F/O WEF 2/12/44
		Casualties	
		J47869 G. Faulkner GD(WAG)	Missing on Air Operations WEF. 6/6/45.
		J47891 W. P. McLoed GD(WAG)	
		J47444 J. J. P. Perron GD(N)	
		J47321 W. N. Reeve GD(AB)	
		J12779 A. F. Timmerman GD(P)	
		RAAF Postings	
		A420912 F/Lt. F. G. Barlogie <sup>2</sup> D.F.C. GD(P)	Posted to RAF Bhopal Repat 28/6/45
		A14407 F/Lt. T. W. Bowles D.F.C. GD (P)	
		A409912 F/Lt. E. Graham GD(P)	
		A412910 F/Lt. E. F. Coulin GD(P)	To 231 Group WEF 1/4/45
		A428311 P/O. H. R. Harvey GD (NB)	Posted to 357 Sqdn on grant of commission in RAAF WEF 16/4/45
		A410102 P/O. E. Williams GD(B)	Same WEF 10/4/45

<sup>1</sup> Record says "Scott", but this may be "Stott".

<sup>2</sup> Australian Nominal Roll gives Barlogie as the spelling.

		A408361 P/O. R. Bain GD(-)	To Kolar WEF 14/4/45
		Decorations RAAF	
		HM the King has graciously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to A408361 P/O. R. Bain GD(P).	
		Statement of Personnel Strength as of July 1st.	
		Airmen	Officers
		Total	
		RAF	305
		RCAF	25
		RAAF	5
		RNZAF	1
			21
			7
			3
			1
			326
			32
			8
			2
			368
		Note: Personnel on Strength consists of Dakota Flight only (Appendix I)	
		'B' Flight	
		Officer Commanding, No.347 (SD) Sqdn.	