

Appendix June 1945

357 Squadron

From:- Officer Commanding, 357 S.D. Squadron, RAF

To:- Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia – attention SD Ops.
Headquarters, 231 Group, - attention SD Ops.

Ref:- 357S/2112/50/Int

Date;- 18th June 1945.

Operation Gauntlett.

Herewith known details of Operation Gauntlett, which was carried out by a Dakota aircraft of this squadron during May. As the Captain and the Navigator were killed in the crash after the sortie had been completed, all times etc., are approximate, having been supplied from memory by the two survivors of the crash. Both these persons are on sick leave, of course, and no further information can be obtained at present.

(B. Gibson) F/O
for Wing Commander Commanding
357 S.D. Squadron, R.A.F.

Sortie Report No. 134.

May 12th	120700 Airborne Jessore 121205 Airborne Dinjan	121015 Landed Dinjan 121530 Landed Kunming.
May 14th	140630 Airborne Kunming 141200 " Chikiang	140930 Landed Chikiang) Bowser run 141530 " Kunming)
15/0725 hrs 1030	Airborne Kunming Landed Chikiang. On loaded Jeep and trailer together with stores, making a total weight of approximately 5500 lbs.	
16/0530 0830	Airborne Chikiang. Landed Chianting. Off loaded stores and unloaded 6 Chinese passengers and safe-hand mail.	
1040	Airborne Chianking.	
1405	Landed Chikiang.	
1515	Airborne Chikiang.	
1840	Landed Kunming.	
18/0705	Airborne Kunming on bowser run.	
1010	Landed Chikiang.	
1210	Airborne Chikiang.	
1525	Landed Kunming.	
19/0720	Airborne Kunming – loaded with stores and 4 personnel, totaling approx: 5500 lbs.	
1035	Landed Chikiang.	
20/0645	Airborne Chikiang	
0925	Landed Chanking, and unloaded stores.	
1200	Airborne Chanting with 1 person as passenger.	
1700	Crash landed at 28°.00'N 106.30'E after being diverted from Chikiang for weather reasons. Bad weather was in front of the aircraft which was heading for Kunming, and this, combined with shortage of fuel, caused the aircraft to attempt a landing in a paddy field at the bottom of a valley, as this was the only flat area to be seen. Aircraft hit paddy hard, turned on to it's nose and caught fire. The pilot and the navigator were killed, and the two surviving members of the crew thought that if a Sutton harness had been available, they might have been saved. The passenger and the two crew	

members were helped away from the wreckage by the local peasants who were very helpful, and were carried to Tuping where a local doctor informed the Americans by phone and an ambulance was sent. The ambulance took them back to Chikiang, and from there they were flown back to Dum-Dum by American aircraft, and were ferried from Dum-Dum to base by a Dakota of this sqdn.

Crew of aircraft:- F/Lt. Egerton-Eves (Capt); F/O Arnold (Nav); - both killed.
W/O. Longbottom; F/Sgt. Biggin.

40 hrs 34 mins Op
3 hrs 15 mins Non-Op.