

April 1946: Form 540

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
	April '46	Part I. – Operations.
		This month the rice dropping operation continued from Pegu, Burma according to schedule. The Squadron switched to ferrying rice to Mytikinya working in close co-operation with No. 355 Squadron which had now come over from Digri and virtually merged with this Unit flying side. Hence the rice ferrying commitment could be met with greater efficiency. These trips to Mytikinya were of quite long duration only one trip per day per aircraft was possible. To counter this Bomb Bay Panniers were fitted all aircraft permitted a maximum load of 94 Bags of Rice in place of the former load of 88. Maintenance also improved due to the availability of more ground personnel who were flown down from Base upon the departure of the last Lancaster of No. 9 Squadron. The weather in Burma in the early days in the month was good but much haze and CU built up was experienced in the last fort-night.
		On the 24th of the month Operations Hunger Two was completed.----a few days ahead of schedule. It is interesting to note that during Operations Hunger No. I. & II. the Squadron dropped or ferried over one and a half million pounds of Rice, 725 hrs., and 486 sorties. Considering the fundamental unsuitability of the Liberator for short ferry trips of the type called for in these Operations, the figures are considered to represent a considerable achievement on the part of all concerned. Rice dropping operations commenced on 28th Jan. and concluded on the 22nd. April. On the 27th April a congratulatory message was received from A.O.C. 228 Group, and other messages of thanks were received from the Government of Burma together with a covering letter from Air Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders, A.O.C. – in - C., A.H.Q. Burma, and the contents of all have been made known to the Sqdn. (the full text of last two letters mentioned may be found in Appendix A & B.)
		A Squadron Aircraft (Captain, F/O. Justam) dispatched to Sookerating on the 27th Feb. last returned to base on the 7th April 1946, on completion of its work there. The crew of the A/C. had been acting as R/T and W/T control for a detachment of Dakotas from 238 Wing engaged on rice dropping operations for the Government of Assam. This was the first time in which out posts of Assam Rifles had been supplied with their basic diet from the air, and notwithstanding the difficulties of the terrain and the accuracy need in locating D.Z's the tasks was successfully completed.
		At the end of the month the Squadron in connection with 355 Sqdn. undertook new work for the Government of Bengal. Large scale photographic reconnaissance of proposed dam sites in the Cossye Valley Area was called for and was under way in the concluding days of the month.
		On the 12th of this month the Squadron received a stand-by warning for disbandment, and on the 24th at the conclusion of rice dropping commitment the action order for disbandment was received. A Target for the completion for the disbandment was fixed by AHQ(I) for June 1st. The order subsequently confirmed by 228 Group on the following day. Complete air crews and ground crew are to be ready for transfer to 232 Sqdn. Palam.
		Training.
		Owing to the heavy demands of the Detachment at Pegu, training was on a very reduced scale. The Link Trainer continued to be popular among all air crew members. The Cossye Valley Operations at the end of the month provided valuable experience for Second Pilots and for Bomb Aimers in exact map reading. Gunners ceased to fly and were misemployed on the Station.
		Sport.
		The Bengal climate made itself felt this month and demobilisation meant the loss to the Station many of the Star soccer players. Badminton was continued on all Sites when the weather permitted.
		Total Operational Flying Hours. 211:25
		Total Non-Operation Flying Hours. 13:05
		Total No. of Sortie Flown. 32.
		Monthly Total of Rice Ferried. 241,220 lbs.
Salbani	April 1946	Part 3. Administration.
	April 3rd.	S/L. Evans D.S.O. A.F.C. assumes Command of 159 Sqdn. S/L. Williams D.F.C. pending demobilisation.
		Letters of sympathy received from Air Chief Marshall Park, and Air Marshall Saunders, in respect of the loss of life incurred in the crash of Lib. 760.
		Notice in orders to the effect that the minimum period of deferment of release for Airmen and

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		Airwomen have now been reduced to 5 month. (H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. M.110 dated 29.3.6)
	6th.	Demobilisation form No. 48 received.
		Demobilisation form No. 49 received.
	12th.	Station Commanders Conference.
		Signal for AHQ India to the effect that on the completion of the rice dropping commitment 159 and 355 Squadrons are to disband and groundcrews and complete aircrews are to be available for transfer to 232 Squadron.
		Litter receptacles are to be provided for each Barrack Hut to prevent untidiness of the sites.
	13th	Demobilisation form No. 50 received.
	15th	Officer i/c Billets are to visit their billets at least once each week and contact the Airmen, receive any complains and explain any orders which may have been issued during the proceeding week.
	16th	Action Release Group Orders No. 19 and No. 20 received.
		Notice on orders regarding secondment of Aircrew to B.O.A.C.
	17th	Recreation Room for Airmen below the rank of Sgt. opened on the Station.
		Opening Hours:- Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
		1430 hrs to 2130 hrs.
		Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
		1800 hrs. to 2130 hrs.
	19th	Good Friday – declared general holiday on the Station.
	22nd	Easter Monday – declared general holiday.
	24th	Signal from B.A.F.S.E.A. giving a target date for disbandment to completed by June 1st. Rice dropping completed, therefore Action Disbandment.
		The Rice dropping commitment in Burma is finished. During the Period in which "Operation Hunger 2" was being completed, the Squadron Carried over 1,500,000 lbs. of rice.
		Officers i/c Billets to visit their respective billets and explain the new Pay Code No. 9 to their men.
	26th	Station Commanders conference and Flying Accidents Committee meeting.
	27th	Message received from A.O.C. 228 Group and published on S.R.C's :-
		"Please convey my congratulations and thanks to Nos. 198, 159, and 355 Squadrons, also all the other personnel who assisted them, upon the successful completion of "Operation Hunger 1 & 2" several days ahead of schedule. Their good work has been brought to the notice of the A.O.C. in C. by A.M.C. Burma."
		Notice on Orders regarding Export Licences, the articles concerned, and mentioning the details of things allowed and those not.
	28th	Action Release Orders No. 20 Phrase 2 Received.
		Part 3. Personnel.
		Personnel Posted to 3 R.E.C. Worli on Demob. or Repat.
		F/Lt. L.A. Barlow. 183328 GD/P (35) Posted to 3 R.E.C. on class "a" release w.e.f. 11.2.46. Left this Unit 31.3.46 S.O.R.S. 1.4.46 Auth:- H.Q. A.C.S.E.A sig. P.188 dated 5.2.46.
		F/Lt. (A/S/L.) R.W. Williams 87437 GD/P (21 and 6) Posted to 3 R.E.C. on Class 'B' release w.e.f. 9.4.46. S.O.R.S. 11.4.46 Auth:- H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. 1000/4/1/P2 (AD) 2.4.46.
		F/Lt. D.T.A. Bewen 151713 GD/P (20 and 12) Posted B.R.D. Worli w.e.f. 16.4.46. S.O.R.S. 17.4.46. (Repat to the U.K.) Auth:- H.Q. B.A.F.S.E.A. Signal C 17351 dated 27.9.45.
		F/O. J. Mcmillan. 164816 GD/NAV (49) Attached to B.R.D. Worli pending embarkation to the U.K. for permanent appointment in the N.F.S. w.e.f. 19.4.46. S.O.R.S. 20.4.46. Auth:- A.H.Q. (I) Signal P.822 15.4.46
		F/O. S. Gregory. 167887 GD/NAV (53)
		F/O. A.S.J. Beavis 179994 GD/P (38) Posted to 3. R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. Auth ARGO

Place	Date	Summary of Events		
				No. 19 and A.H.Q. (I) Signal P 875 dated 17.4.46.
		F/Lt. I.W. Preece.	147699 GD/AG (34)	Posted to 3 R.E.C. Worli on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46 SORS 21.4.46. auth:- ARGO. ARGO No. 19 & H.Q.S.C.S.E.A. Signal P 335 12.4.46.
		F/Lt. G.G. Newton	136667 GD/P (38)	Posted to 3.R.E.C. for Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. SORS. 30.4.46. Auth:- ARGO No. 19 & B.A.F.S.E.A. Signal P 332.
		F/O. (A/F/L?) G.A. Gammons	171140 A & SD (Flying Control) (33)	Posted to 3.R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. SORS 30.4.46. Auth:- ARGO No. 20 phase 2 & BAFSEA Signal P832 15.4.46.
		F/O. J.W.F. Tubb.	188532 GD/W.AG (32)	Posted to B.R.D. Worli for repat to the U.K. w.e.f. 27.4.46. SORS 28.4.46. Auth:- AHQ (I) Signal OM 107 dated 6.4.46.
		W/O. Harris K.W.	1306820 A/G (45)	Posted to 3.R.E.C. (pending repat to the U.K.) w.e.f. 1.4.45 Left this unit 29.3.46.
		W/O. Clarke G.	1135360 Wop/Air (38)	Posted to 3. R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 2.4.46. Left this Unit 1.4.46. SORS 2.4.46. Auth:- ARGO No. 19 phase 4.
		F/S. Bowes. J.	1567743 Wop/Air (38)	
		W/O. Meyer. M.L.	1336875 Pilot (39)	Posted to 3. R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. SORS 21.4.46. Auth:- AROG No. 20.
		W/O. Chapman. N.M.	1804560 Pilot (40)	
		W/O. Ge?van. J.S.	1554077 Pilot (40)	Posted to 3. R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. SORS 21.4.46. Auth:- AROG No. 20.
		F/S. Elford. N.	1454237 Pilot (40)	
		F/S. Walker	1543930 Wop/Air (21?)	Posted to 3. R.E.C. on Class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. SORS 21.4.46. Auth:- ARGO No. 20.
		F/S. Lunhurst. C.M.	1386982 Wop/Air (39)	
		Other Postings From the Unit.		
		F/O. E.D. Adamson.	167406 GD/Nav (59)	Posted to AHQ(I). (E.V.T. Officer Special duties) w.e.f. 1.4.46. SORS. 24.4.46.
		F/O. T.C.H. Winup.	164104 GD/AB (47)	Posted to AHQ(I) (F/L Air Staff Sqdn training post) on cessation of attachment to H.Q. B.A.F.S.E.A. w.e.f. 1.4.46. Auth:- AHQ(I)/013101/18/P 8.4.46.
		F/O. Dunning S.P.T.	165272 GD/Nav (46)	Posted to AHQ Burma (spy) pending disposal of staff navigators vacancies. w.e.f. 8.4.46. SORS. 21.4.46. Auth:- HQ. A.C.S.E.A. letter 2312/5/P2 (Air) 6.4.46.
		P/O. Mitchell D.C.P.	202197 GD/P (42)	Posted to 159 Sqdn. (Supy) w.e.f. 10.4.46 (Date of reporting as an Officer.) TORS w.e.f. same date. Auth:- Air Ministry letter K.849075/46/P45. dated 28.2.46.
		F/O. P.W.D. Bion	165816 GD/AB (47)	Posted to No. 9. Sqdn. w.e.f. 20.4.46. Auth:- AHQ(I) signal P.233 dated 24.4.46.
		W/O. Godfrey. D.G.	1602792 Wop/Air (45)	Posted to AHQ(I) (for disposal to 52 Sqdn. w.e.f. 1.4.46. SORS. 21.4.46.

Place	Date	Summary of Events		
				auth:- HQ. A.C.S.E.A. 2303/6/P2. (Air) dated 3.4.46.
		Attachments From the Unit.		
		(a) Attachments Pegu.		
		F/O. E. Markwell.	163834 GD/Pilot (48)	Attached R.A.F. Pegu 4.4.46. SORS. 5.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. J.W. Harland.	152618 GD/Pilot (47)	
		F/O. J.C. Corlet.	171023 GD/Pilot (50)	
		F/O. H. Allsop.	186398 GD/Pilot (44)	
		F/O. J. Freland.	167453 GD/AB (56)	
		F/O. W.A. Spencer	167628 GD/AB (55)	Attached to R.A.F. Pegu w.e.f. 5.4.46. SORS. 6.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. G.T. Nash.	166618 GD/Wop. (55)	
		F/O. E. Marsdon.	165805 GD/Nav. (54)	
		F/L. C.N. Hood.	121514 GD/Pilot (34 plus 18)	
		F/O. J.F. Caird.	184021 GD/Pilot (43)	Att. R.A.F. Pegu. 22.4.46.
		F/S. Pepperell. K.	1652639 Wop. (43)	Attached to R.A.F. Pegu w.e.f. 4.4.46. SORS. 5.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		W/O. Gordon. T.	1822339 F/E. (50)	
		F/S. Owens. K.	1803750 Nav/B. (47)	
		W/O. Lawson. A.	1685507 A/B. (48)	
		F/S. Todd. D.F.	1801567 Pilot (45)	
		F/S. Foreshaw. H.	1678016 Nav. (53)	
		W/O. Hawkins. S.D.	1806337 F/E. (48)	
		F/S. Johnson. A.	2202161 Wop. (52)	Attached to R.A.F. Pegu. w.e.f. 5.4.46. SORS. 6.4.46.
		W/O. Kirkup. T.	578351 F/E. (N.A.)	
		F/O. E. Marsdon.	165805 GD/Nav. (54)	Ceased attachment Pegu. w.e.f. 7.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. A.H. Fryer.	165252 GD/AB. (55)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 11.4.46 Auth:- O.C. Unit.
				Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 13.4.46 Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. E. Markwell	163834 GD/B (48)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 19.4.46 Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. J.W. Harland	152618 GD/P (47)	
		F/L. J.C. Coslett?	1711023 GD/Sig. (50)	
		F/O. P.J. Haines.	186725 GD/P (44)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 21.4.46 Auth:- O.C. Unit
		W/O. Hawkins. S.D.	1806337 F/E. (48)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 7.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		W/O. Gordon. T.	1822339 F/E. (50)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 19.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		W/O. Lawson. A.	1685507 A/B (46)	
		W/O. Owers. K.	1803750 Nav/B. (47)	
		F/S. Leddy. A.	1811049 Nav. (53)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 21.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		W/O. Condell. E.	1795360 F/E. (45)	
		F/S. Dawkins. D.	1623900 Wop. (49)	
		W/O. Kirkup. T.	578351 F/E. (N.A.)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 29.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/S. Johnson. G.	1795512 Pilot (52)	
		F/L (A/S/L) C.N. Hbed??	121524 GD/P (34 plus 18)	Ceased attachment Pegu w.e.f. 28.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. G. T. Nash.	168618? GD/Wop. (55)	
		F/O. W.A. Spencer.	167628 GD/AB (55)	
		Attachment to No. 11 Hill Depot.		
		F/L. J.A. Bassat.	135461 GD/P (27 & 6)	Attached for E.V.T. Course w.e.f. 2.4.46. Auth:- 228 Gp. Sig. E. 84. 20.3.46.
		F/O. B. Colloby.	166848 GD/AB (52)	Attached for Engineering Course w.e.f. 7.4.46. Auth:- 228 Group sig. E.138. 4.4.46.

Place	Date	Summary of Events		
		W/O. L. Vaughan.		Attached No.11 Hill Depot w.e.f. 16.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/S. J. B. Wigg.	1864852 F/E (52)	Attached No.11 Hill Depot w.e.f. 18.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/S. J.F.P. McSloy.	2202394 A/G (54)	
		F/S W.N. Mitchell.	1950006 A/G (54)	
		F/S. D. Boyd.	1773915 A/G (54)	
		F/S. T.D. Aldridge.	1626513 A/G (55)	
		F/L. J. A. Basset.	135461 GD/P (27 & 6)	Ceased attachment No. 11 Hill depot w.e.f. 21.4.46. Auth:- 228 G. sig. E.84. 20.4.46.
		F/O. D. Holme.	167452 GD/AB (51)	Ceased attachment No. 11 Hill depot w.e.f. 30.4.46. Auth:- 228 G. sig. E. 106. 26.3.46.
		F/S. Elford N.W.	1454247 Pilot (40)	Ceased attachment No. 11 Hill depot w.e.f. 20.4.46. Auth:- 228 Group sig. E 84. 20.3.46.
		F/S. Jones, D.	1547670 A.G. (45)	Ceased attachment No. 11 Hill depot w.e.f. 27.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/S. Hudson. T.H.	1607450 A.G. (52)	
		F/S. Bukten.	1521233 A.G. (57)	
		W/O. Holden.	1663104 F/E (48)	
		W/O. Maxwell. H.F.	1675431 F/E. (48)	
		W/O. Collins. R.	1895418 F/E (50)	
		Other Attachments From the Unit.		
		F/L. G.G. Newton.	13667 GD/P (39)	Ceased attachment to A.C.M.C. 9.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. K. England.	164106 GD/AB (46)	Attached to R.A.F. Ranchi. w.e.f. 9.4.46. Ceased attachment 13.4.46. Auth:- Awaited.
		F/S. Waugh. J.	1597871 A/G (50)	Ceased attachment to No. 9. Sqdn. Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/S. Williams. P.V.	1662376 A/G (50)	
		F/S. Waite. P.A.	1109964 A.B. (53)	
		Temporary Duty.		
		F/O. J.F. Craid.	184021 GD/P (41)	Calcutta T.D. 13.4.46 – 17.4.46.
		F/O. J. Aries.	166555 GD/P (47)	Auth:- O.C. Unit.
		F/O. D. Abercrombie.	199426 GD/P (46)	Proceeded to B.M.H. on T.D. for Medical appointment. 22.4.46 – 26.4.46.
		Promotion and Confirmation of Ranks.		
		F/O. J.J. Smith.	132545 GD/P (45)	Promoted to F/L (WS) w.e.f. 11.1.46. Auth:- London Gazette No. 374452. Dated 1.2.46.
		F/O. F. Beacock.	163705 GD/AB (47)	Promoted to F/L (WS) w.e.f. 28.1.46. Auth:- London Gazette No. 374479. Dated 22.2.46.
		F/O. D.J. Justham	164833 GD/AB? (48)	Promoted to F/L (WS) w.e.f. 11.2.46. Auth:- London Gazette No. 374493. Dated 8.3.46.
		F/O. E. Markwell.	163834 GD/P (48)	
		P/O. S.J.C. Ruthven	201105 GD/Wop. (45)	Confirmed and Promoted F/O. w.e.f. 14.3.46. Auth:- L.G. No. 37523. dated 5.4.46.
		Admissions to Sick Quarters.		
		F/O. Berresford. K.	166440 GD/Nav (47)	Admitted to B.M.H. Calcutta. w.e.f. 1.4.46. Transferred to C.M.H. Lebong. w.e.f. 23.4.46. Auth:- O.C. B.M.H. Calcutta.
		F/O. Fryers. A.	165253 GD/Ab (55)	Admitted to C.M.H. Midnapur. w.e.f.

Place	Date	Summary of Events			
					16.4.46. discharged w.e.f. 22.4.46. Auth:- S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/O. Firth. K.	197844 GD/NAV	(39)	Admitted to C.M.H. Midnapur. w.e.f. 23.4.46. Auth:- S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/L. Corlett. J.	171023 GD/Wop.	(50)	Admitted to C.M.H. Midnapur. w.e.f. 24.4.46. Auth:- S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/S. Lovell. J.K.	1818031 A?	(51)	Admitted to B.H.Q. Cal. w.e.f. 1.4.46. Transferred to 41 General Hospital w.e.f. 17.4.46. Auth:- O.C. B.M.H. Calcutta.
		F/S. Steele. S.W.	1636748 F/E	(46)	Admitted to D.M.H. Midnapur, w.e.f. 23.4.46. Auth:- S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/O. Trill. C.	165769 GD/AB	(46)	Discharged from B.M.H. Calcutta w.e.f. 30.3.46. Auth:- O.C. B.M.H.
		F/L. D.T.A. Bowen	151713 GD/P	(20-21)	Discharged Midnapur Hospital w.e.f. 6.4.46. Auth:- O.C. Hospital.
		F/S. Brooks. V.	1892916 F/E	(54)	Discharged No. 9. B.G.H. w.e.f. 4.4.46. Auth:- O.C. B.G.H.
		Sgt. Hughes H.H.	1507138 F/E	(40)	Discharged from No. 9. B.G.H. Calcutta. w.e.f. 17.4.46. Auth:- O.C. B.G.H.
		Honours and Awards.			
		None notified this Month.			
		General.			
		The Squadron finished its role in Operations Hunger Two, and has been congratulated on its good work during the last three months. Squadron personnel have appreciated that their work has some measure repaid debt owed to the Kachins for their outstanding work on behalf of the R.A.F. During the war in Burma.			
		During the month this Unit has been working in close co-operation and harmony with No. 355 Squadron who have recently moved from Digri to Salbani. Combined resources of both Squadrons were utilised in the interests of Hunger Two.			
		Crews have been selected for transfer to No. 232 Squadron upon the Unit's disbandment and further information on the ultimate disposal of all Squadron personnel is awaited.			
		Ferrying Rice from Pegu to Mitkyina the operational work of the Squadron during the month until the termination of Operation Hunger Two on 23rd April. For this task Bomb Bay Panniers were fitted in the Aircraft increasing the carrying capacity of the Lib. M.K. VIII to a maximum of 94 bags per sortie.			
		Maintenance improved over the previous month due to the availability of more ground personnel flow down from Salbani to Pegu in Squadron A/C. No serious snags developed on any aircraft. All serviceable A/C were engaged at Pegu and there was little flying from Base.			
		Weather conditions remained fair to good at Pegu some Cu commencing to build up during the day over the hills and extensive haze restricted visibility.			
		Lib. M.K. VIII K.L. 674 returned with her crew from Sookerating in Assam on 7th April at the conclusion of rice dropping Operations from a disused American airport there. The Unit's crew (F/O Justam, Captain) had been acting as R/T and W/T. control for 238 wing A/C engaged in dropping the rice.			
		Summary for the Month of April.			
		Pegu to Mitkyina			
		Total Freight.	Total No. of Passengers.	Total Hours Flown	Total No. of Sorties.
		241,220	1	211.35	32
		Progressive Totals to the conclusion of Rice dropping operations on 23rd April 1946.			
		Total of Rice Ferried or Dropped 28th Jan-23rd April	Total No. of Sorties Flown	Total No. of Hours Flown.	
		1,579.40	486	724.30	
		Photo Reconnaissance			
		Total Hours Flown	Total No. of Sorties.		

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		5:35 2