

March 1946: Form 540

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Salboni	March 1946	Part 1
		Operations.
		The Squadron continued with its rice-dropping commitment operating from Pegu. On the 17th March the Squadron were informed by O.C. Detachment that the completion of the commitment was expected by the 20th March, but a further signal stated that a new commitment of 400 tons was to be undertaken. Full authority having been obtained from BAFSEA for this new undertaking, the Squadron proceeded with the task of ferrying rice from Pegu to Myitkyina, and was thus engaged at the close of the month. The operations were in no way affected by weather which was fine at the beginning of the month, although some deterioration occurred towards the end of March. Difficulty was experienced with maintenance, there being insufficient ground personnel to deal adequately with snags and inspections that arose during the course of the operations. In addition to the operations carried out from Pegu, the Squadron continued to maintain an aircraft at Sookeraking, acting as a ground W/T. and R/T. Control on the disused American aerodrome there.
		On March 28th, the Squadron suffered a heavy loss when Liberator KH760 "H" crashed on the airfield at Pegu shortly after take off and burn into flames. Of the two crews in the aircraft, only three members escaped, and they were admitted to hospital at Mingaladon suffering from severe injuries.
		Total Rice Dropped 456,000 lbs.
		Total Rice Ferried. 27,000 lbs.
		Total Number of Sorties 154
		Total Operational Flying Hours. 168 hrs. 45 mins.
		Total Non-Operational Flying Hours. 42 hrs. 20 mins.
		Training.
		Owing to the demands of the Pegu detachment, flying training this month has been limited to 12 hours 30 minutes. Ground training has been carried out on a limited scale as only four crews have been available at any one time. Sections have been carrying out their own training programmes and an increasing interest in the Link Trainer has been shown by all aircrew members.
		Part 2.
		Administration.
	March 2nd	AHQ Sig. P847 received re. Release Group Order No. 19. Action Release Group Order No. 19 received.
	4th	F/O. H. Beale. proceeded on class A release. ARO 18 phase 2.
	6th	F/Sgt. Stanfield. C. proceeded on class B release.
	6th	F/Sgt. McLean. A. proceeded on class B release
	7th	ACSEA letter concerning marking of kit on release.
	8th	Full report issued on Viceroy's speech at remembrance ceremony at Memorial Arch on 4/3/46.
	9th	AHQ Sig. recd. F/Sgt Lang granted class C release.
	11th	P/O. F.A. Clarke proceed on class A release. Auth. HQ ACSEA Sig.P320 4/3/46.
	12th	AHQ(I)/BAF/C. 580965/P2 AD. received. Releases from RAF under class B.
	12th	Demob bulletin No..... received.
	12th	Home Chat No.4 received.
	13th	Working hours on Station. Mondays Wednesdays & Fridays 0730-1230 hrs & 1430-1700 hrs. Tuesdays Thursdays & Saturday s. 0730-1230 hrs.
	14th	ACSEA letter 748/11/P1. dated 12/3/46 received ref. Unit Badge notifying copy of badge cannot be forwarded until it is approved by H.M. the King.
	15th	AHQ Sig. received concerning Medical examination. Personnel on Repat and Demob.
	15th	W.e.f. this date, no food parcels may be sent to the U.K. Tea may still be sent.
	15th	F/O. J.A. Bolingbroke. proceeded on class A release.
	15th	Station Commanders Conference.
	16th	AHQ Sig. recd. Release Group No. 19 phase 3.
	19th	F/Sgt. Lang proceeded on class C release.

Place	Date	Summary of Events
	22nd	AHQ No. 19 phase 4 received.
	24th	Home Chat No. 5 received.
	25th	Notification in orders that overseas tour of duty for single men reduced to three years wef 1/4/46.
	26th	ACSEA Sig. W/938S. recd. Release of aliens serving in British Forces.
	28th	F/Lt. L.A. Barlow. proceeded on class A release. HQ ACSEA Sig. P471 16/3/46.
	30th	ACSEA 748/11/P1. recd. ref. Unit Badge. Notified that Motto suggested "Will not do at all." Suggested "quo non quando non."
	30th	ACSEA Sig P458 A/S/L. Williams to proceed on class A release.
	29th	Station Commanders conference and Flying Accidents Committee meeting.
		Sports.
		Football during this month has been on a gradual decline, due to the afternoons being too warm for play, but quite a number of games have been played. Keeness shown by the Squadron members continues at a very high standard, as is witnessed by the large attendance at all the games.
		Games have been on a friendly basis owing to the cessation of inter-section competitions. Individual sections have been mostly unable to form teams of their own, owing to their members being reduced by Demob and Repat, and sections have usually combined to form teams.
		Owing to lack of opposition on the Station, the Squadron XI has been limited to two games versus the rest of the Station.
		Exceptional keeness has been shown at Badminton, practically every billet having constructed its own court.
		Part 3.
		Personnel.
		The undermentioned aircrew were posted to AHQ(RF)NEI supy. for flying duties wef 28/2/46. SORS 5/3/46 Auth ACSEA Sig. P306 25/2/46.
		1576837 W/O. WOP/AIR Franks, J.H. (42)
		2206161 W/O. WOP/AIR Johnson, A. (52)
		1397256 W/O. WOP/AIR Sayer, H.N. (41)
		The undermentioned personnel were posted to 3REC Worli.
		1882448 F/Sgt. A/G Stanfield. R. (45) Release class B wef 2/3/46 SORS 9/3/46 Auth HQ ACSEA 1100/4/1/P2 (AD) 26/2/46
		1826681 F/S. A/G McLean. A. (58) Release class B wef 28/2/46 SORS 5/3/46 Auth HQ ACSEA 1100/4/1/P2 (AD) 2/2/46
		1881527 F/S. A/G Hatton. R.A. (61) Release class B wef 8/2/46 SORS 28/2/46 Auth HQ ACSEA 1100/4/1/P2 (AD) 19/2/46
		1371674 W/O. F/E Howie. T. (35) Release class A wef 6/3/46 SORS 9/3/46 Release order No. 19.
		The U/M personnel were posted to 3 REC Worli on release, and Repat.
		1879909 W/O. WOP/AIR Barlow. J. (35) Release class A wef 6/3/46 SORS 5/3/46 Release order No. 19.
		NFD/798831 F/S. A/G Howard. N.E. (59) Repat to U.K. wef 15/3/46 A.M. Sig. P.M.6811. Auth HQ ACSEA letter 2341/5/P2Air. 1/3/46 and BAFSEA Sig. OM156 12/3/46.
		1585832 F/S. WOP/AIR Lang. S. (47) Release class C wef 20/3/46 SORS 21/3/46 Auth AHQ Sig N224 9/3/46.
		1344302 F/S. WOP/AIR Shaw. W. (37) Release class A wef 28/3/46. Left this Station
		1603297 W/O. WOP/AIR Gilmour (37) 23/3/46 SORS 24/3/46/ Auth. ARGO. No. 19
		1384551 F/S. WOP/AIR Heritage (37) phase 3.
		F/O. E.A. Clark 182953 GD/P Release class A wef 6/3/46 SORS 12/3/46. Auth AGRO No. 19 & HQ ACSEA Sig. P320 4/3/46.
		F/O. C. H. Hedley. 56141 GD/P Repat U.K. wef 21/3/46. SORS 22/3/46 Auth HQ ACSEA letter 2341/1/3/P2/(AIR) BAF 14/2/46 & HQ BAFSEA Sig. OM199/15/3/46.
		F/O. A/F/L. J.A. Bollingbroke 158158 Tech Sig/Radar Release class A wef 6/3/46 Left this unit 16/3/46 AORS 17/3/46 Auth ARGO 19 & HQ ACSEA Sig. P3320 4/3/46.
		P/O. M. Glecker. 198493 GD/NAV Compassionate posting to U.K. wef 23/3/46. SORS 24/3/46 Auth AHQ Sig M669 21/3/46.
		1395902 W/O. A/G Harris K.W. (45) Posted U.K. left this unit 29/3/46 SORS 30/3/46 Auth HQ ACSEA 2341/1/3/P2/SF. 3/3/46.

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		Attachments.
		F/O. E.J. Shamples? 56889 GD/ENG. Ceased attachment U.K. on completion of F/E Course wef 14/3/46 TORS 15/3/46 Auth HQ ACSEA Sig. P36 28/2/46.
		The following Officers were attached to 228 Group wef 27/3/46 pending posting.
		F/O. J.M. Jones 166024 GD/NAV SORS 28/3/46 Auth A.O.C.HQ 228 Group.
		F/O. W.D. Aveyaed 188915 GD/NAV
		F/O. J.P. Henderson 165778 GD/NAV
		The following Officers ceased attachment to Aircrew Mountain Course.
		F/L. A/S/L. H.P. Legg 127535 GD/P wef 6/3/46 TORS 7/3/46 Auth 228 Group Sig AT 71 13/2/46.
		F/O. R.A. James 165942 GD/P wef 13/3/46 TORS 14/3/46 Auth 228 Group Sig AT 71 13/2/46.
		F/O. T.C.H. Winup. 164104 GD/A/B Attached to HQ BAFSEA wef 15/3/46. SORS 16/3/46 Auth HQ BAFSEA Sig.P967 11/3/46.
		F/O. S.R. Dunningn. 165272 GD/NAV Ceased attachment to U.K. for Staff Nav course 19/3/46 arrived this unit 21/3/46. TORS 22/3/46. Auth HQ ACSEA P2 DET.ATT. Mauripur letter 233/1/P2 19/3/46.
		F/L. A/S/L. M.P. Legg. 127535 GD/P Posted to BRDC 62(AIR) wef 11/3/46 pending emplanement on repat. SORS 12/3/46. Auth HQ ACSEA Sig P171 18/2/46 & HQ BARSEA Sig. OM 348 21/2/46.
		F/L. A/S/L. C.M. Hood. 121514 GD/P Attached to 159 Squadron from 232 Squadron wef 28/3/46 TORS 29/3/46 (pending posting) Auth A.O.C HQ 229 Group.
		P/O. S. Challenger. 20184 6 GD/A/B Posted to 159 Squadron (SUPY) wef 11/3/46 (date of reporting as Officer) TORS 11/3/46 Auth A.M. Letter A840207/45/P14 2/1/46.
		1597871 F/S. A/G Waugh. J.W. (50) Attached to No.9 Squadron wef 12/3/46 wef 20/3/46.
		1662376 F/S. A/G Williams P.V. (54) Auth O.C. Unit.
		1109964 F/S. A/G Waite. P.A. (53)
		Attached to Aircrew Mountain Centre 13/3/46.
		F/L. Hewton. C.G. G/D/P 136667 SORS 14/3/46 Auth O.C. Unit.
		F/O. Firth. K. GD/NAV/B 197844
		F/S. Longhurst. C. GD/WOP
		F/S. Chapman. N. GD/P. 1814560
		Attachments Pegu.
		8/3/46 F/O. Allsop. F/S. Todd. Sgt. Foreshaw. F/O. Freeland. Sgt. Pepperell. W/O. Hawkins. W/O. Holder. F/S. Aldridge.
		17/3/46 F/O. Reagan. Sgt. Holloway. W/O. Holmes. F/S. Payne Sgt. Ellis. F/S. Watson. Sgt. Hewitt. F/O. Mclure.
		25/3/46 F/L. Hoult. F/S. Matthews. Sgt. Fraser. Sgt. Cohen. Sgt. Birkill. Sgt. Sinclair. F/S. Ricketts. F/S. Greenlaugh. Sgt. Bottsford. F/S. Hickman. F/S. Wutcher. Sgt. James. F/S. Steel.
		28/3/46 W/O. Meyer. F/S. Jerwood. F/S. Waterman. F/S. Kirman? F/S. Reeves. F/S. Tonge.
		29/3/46 F/O. Haines. F/L. Budd. F/O. Fryer. F/S. Leddy. F/S. Dawkins. W/O. Condell.
		8/3/46 F/O. Markwell. F/L. Harland. W/O. Owers. W/O. Gordon. F/L. Corlett.
		Ceased attachments Pegu.
		1/3/46 F/O. Markwell. F/L. Harland. W/O. Owers. W/O. Gordon. F/L. Corlett.
		7/3/46 F/O. Haines. F/L. Budd. F/O. Fryer. F/S. Leddy. F/S. Dawkins. F/S. Reynolds. F/S. Williams.
		221/3/46 F/O. Markwell. F/L. Harland. W/O. Owers. W/O. Gordon. F/L. Corlett. F/O. Allsop. F/S. Todd. Sgt. Foreshaw. F/O. Freeland. Sgt. Pepperell. W/O. Hawkins. W/O. Holder. F/S. Aldridge.
		Temporary Duties.
		T.D. to BHQ Calcutta for interview with commissioning board NFS. 9/3/46 returned 12/3/46 SoRS same period. Auth AHQ India Sig. P968 11/3/46.

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		F/L. Preece 147699 GD/A/G
		F/O. J.A. McMillan 164816 GD/NAV/B.
		F/O. S. Gregory. 167887 GD/Nav.
		Absent on T.D. at 47SP. Lahore for period 13/3/46 to 17/3/46 SORS same period. Auth O.C. Unit.
		F/L. D.T.A. Bowen. 151713 GD/P.
		Absent on T.D. 9 RAF BGH. period 14/3/46 to 17/3/46 SORS same period. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		F/O. J.T. MacNally. 165928 GD/A/G.
		Absent on T.D. at BRD Worli. for Court of Inquiry for period 15/3/46 to 22/3/46 SORS same period. Auth O.C. Unit RAF Salboni.
		F/O. J.J. Smith. 150792 GD/P.
		Absent on T.D. 9 RAF BGH. period 23/3/46 to 27/3/46 SORS same period. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		F/O. K. Berresford 166440 GD/NAV.
		Absent on T.D. at RAF Santa Cruz. period 15/3/46 to 16/3/46 SORS same period Auth O.C. Unit.
		F/L. Budd. P. 1570007 GD/P.
		Absent on T.D. at CSQ Calcutta period 24/3/46 to 26/3/46. SORS same period Auth S.M.O Salboni.
		F/L. J.W. Harland 152613 GD/P.
		Proceeded to Calcutta for special appointment 16/3/46 SORS 17/3/46 Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		1684794 F/S GD/P Lambert. D. (47).
		Proceeded to HQ 228 Group for Group Selection Board on 17/3/46 SORS 18/3/46 returned unit 19/3/46 TORS 20/3/46 auth HQ 228 Group Sig. M548 26/2/46.
		1673087 W/O. GD/P Kerr. C.A. (48).
		Postponement of Release
		643068 Sgt. WOP/AG Kirkman. J. (21) Release postponed six months from 1/0/45 approved. Auth. Record office letter A2K/643068 11/2/46.
		Admission to Hospitals and Sick Quarters.
		F/O. D. Abercrombie 199426 GD/P Admitted to OMH wef 9/3/46 SORS 10/3/46. discharged 14/3/46. TORS 15/3/46 Auth SMO OMH Barrackpore.
		F/O. C.S. Trill. 165769 GD/A/B Admitted to BMH Rawalpindi 11/3/46. SORS 12/3/46. Auth SMO. Salboni.
		F/L. D.T.A. Bowen. 151713 GD/P Admitted to Midnapore hospital wef 23/3/46 SORS 27/3/46. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		1837426 F/S A/G Thomas. C. (51) Admitted to C.M.H. Midnapore wef 1/3/46 SORS 2/3/46. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		1609964 F/S A/B Waite T.A. (53) Admitted to C.M.H. Serampore wef 11/3/46 SORS same period. Discharged 19/3/46. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		NFD/798831 F/S A/G Howard. H.W. (59) Admitted to C.M.H. Serampore wef 28/2/46 Discharged 6/3/46. SORS same period. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		1507138 F/S. F/E Hughes. H.A. (40) Admitted to 9 BGH wef 1/12/45 Discharged 9/3/46. SORS same period. Auth S.M.O. Salboni.
		Casualties Flying Accidents.
		Killed as a result of flying accident at Pegu, on 28/3/46.
		F/O. J.. Craig. 184054 GD/P (44)
		F/O. J.S. Wood. 166189 GD/P (51)
		F/O. W.J. Strachan 167877 GD/A/B (59)
		F/O. R.H. Regan. 186341 GD/P (46)
		F/O. H.G. Mclure. 184065 GD/SIG (37)
		1588061 F/S. NAV Acton. S.C. (48)
		1863438 W/O. F/E Evans. L.W.J. (45)
		1602914 F/S. WOP/AIR. Horne F.C. (47)
		1625069 W/O. F/E Holmes. R.N.L. (47)
		1804753 F/S. NAV/B Payne. C.H? (47)
		3005444 Sgt. NAV Hewitt. J. (55)
		3050255 LAC Jell. A.)
		1795275 LAC Payne. W.J.) 7159 Servicing Echelon.
		1573916 LAC Milne? A.G.)
		The following Army personnel were also killed.

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		Major J.H. Whitaker.
		Lt. Durham.
		89557 L/Naik Abdul Razak. (Indian Army)
		the following personnel were seriously injured, and admitted to RAF Hospital Mingladon.
		1588626 F/S. Holloway. E. O.
		1811949 F/S. Ellis. C.A.
		1901081 F/S. Watson J.
		1345848 LAC McNair. J.V.
		Promotions of Officers.
		199426 P/O. D. Abercrombie. GD/P Confirmed in appointment and promoted to F/O(WS) wef 1/12/45. auth. London Gazette No. 37418. 1/1/46.
		171035 F/O. J. Corbett. GD/SIGS. Promoted to F/L wef 14/1/46. auth London Gazette No. 37460. 8/2/46.
		172115 F/O. F.C. Avery. GD/SIGS. promoted to F/L wef 18/1/46. Auth. London Gazette No. 37468. 15/2/46.
		Awards and Honours.
		the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to A/S/L Williams, Squadron C.O. No details of the citation are known.
		General.
		There were no outstanding developments in this months Squadron activities, the task of dropping rice in Burma being continued from Pegu. About the middle of the month notification was received that the rice dropping commitment was drawing to a close, and the possible disbandment of the Squadron in the near future came under review. However the commitment was extended and at the end of the month a Signal was received from A.H.Q.(I) intimating that this Squadron might possibly merge with 355 Squadron, forming a consolidated Squadron to be known as 232. Further developments are awaited.
		A Court of Inquiry has been convened by the A.O.C., A.H.Q., Burma, to investigate the accident which occurred to Liberator KH.760 "H", at Pegu on 28th. March 1946, in which the Squadron suffered the regrettable loss of so many of its valued members.
		(D?.F. Evans) O.C. No. 159 Sqdn. RAF.