

May 1946: Form 540

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		Part I. – Operations.
		There was very little operational work for the Squadron during this month save for the completing of the aerial photographic reconnaissance of the Cossye Valley Area for the Government of Bengal and this was completed early on the Month, (9th May). The results are not yet know but considerable difficulty was experienced in achieving accuracy due to the bleak nature of the terrain and the consequent lack of reliable pin-points.
		Preparations for the disbandment of the Squadron and the transfer of crews to No. 232 Squadron, of 229 Group were made. W/Commandr. Pritchard, C.O. of the above Squadron visited the Unit and interviewed Crew Captains and Crews. By the end of the month it became apparent that only a few crews were depleting the Squadrons of its Captains of Aircraft. On the 28th and 29th two crews left for Poona in Squadron Aircraft marked by transfer to 232 Squadron and a further crew is to leave on the 1st June. Every effort has been made on the part of the Administrative Staff to achieve a complete physical disbandment of the Squadron by the Target date – 1st June, but it became apparent that owing to the absence of Posting Instructions for the majority of the Unit personnel, this could not be done. It was regretted that an application made on behalf of the National Nautical School, Portshead, to have a Squadron Ensign forwarded to them, fell through as this Unit unhappily does not possess one. The squadron is in addition still not in receipt of this Crest and Motto – a matter which has been outstanding many months now.
		Total No. of Op. Hours : 13:05
		Total No. of Non-Op. Hours : 67:10
		Total No. of Sorties : 22
		Total No. of Passengers carried : 36
		Training.
		The necessity for the Squadron disbandment by the end of the Month and the completion of the Cossye Valley Operations earl on in the month brought the Training Programme of the Squadron to a halt. Aircrew personnel were free however to make use of the Link Training Instruction, and many did so.
		Sport.
		The onset of Pre-Monsoon heat coupled with a high humidity brought to a halt all strenuous games. Swimming in the Station Swimming Pool became a popular recreation.
		Part II. Administration.
	1st May	Action Release Group Order No. 20 received.
	2nd May	Demobilisation Form No. 5 received.
	3rd May	Allocation of 110 Voluntary Help parcels received from A.H.Q.(I).
	4th May	Nil.
	5th May	Administration Instruction No. 129 dated 25.4.46 referring to disbandment of 355 and 159 Squadrons.
	6th May	W/Commandr. Pritchard, O/C No. 232 Squadron, visit to interview Squadron personnel earmarked for No. 232 Squadron on disbandment of the Unit.
	6th May	Quarterly Audit of Non-Public Accounts.
	6th May	No. 228 Group Welfare R.A.F. 16 fountain pens of a special canteen line received for purchase by personnel of this Unit.
	6th May	Repatriation stand by warning: movements 2B dated 2.5.46 received from A.H.Q.(I0).
	7th May	Station Commander's conference attended by S/Ldr. L.F. Evans, D.S.O., A.F.C., O.C. No. 159 Squadron to discuss disbandment of Unit.
	8th May	Station Commander's farewell message, after being eight months C.O. of this Station.
	10th May	Squadron Leader L.F. Evans, D.S.O., A.F.C., assumes command of R.A.F. Station Salbani, with effect from 9th May, 1946, vice Wing Commander W.G. Gardinier, D.F.C., A.F.C.
	10th May	All ground personnel of Release Group 42 are to report to Station Sick Quarters for Medical Examination prior to release.
	10th May	16 watches and 31 Themis Flasks allocated to this Squadron from Group Welfare
	15th May	Squadron's Board of Survey convened.
	15th May	Repatriation stand by warning: Movements 2B dated 11.5.46 received from AHQ(I)

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	??th May	Demobilisation Form No. 55 received.			
	20th May	B.P.O. instructions concerning disbandment of Units including No. 159 Sqdn., received. AHQ(I) disbandment Orders 23/46 relating to this Unit received. Request for National Nautical School Portshead, Somerset, that the Squadron's Ensign may be sent to them to hang in the school chapel.			
	24th May	Conference convened by S/Ldr Evans to discuss final disposal of crews and aircraft to No. 232 Squadron, Poona.			
	25th May	Stand by repatriation Officers received A.H.Q.(I)/013106/1/1/P2, dated 18th May, 1946.			
	25th May	Demobilisation Form No. 56 received.			
	26th May	Movements of three crews and aircraft to Poona.			
		May 1946, Part III Personnel.			
		"A" Postings.			
		F/O. A.R. Turner	196635 GD/NAV	(40)	Posted to No.3 R.E.C. Worli on class "A" release w.e.f. 12.5.46. S.O.R.S. 7.5.46. Auth: Action Release Group Order No. 20 Phase 3. and B.A.F.S.E.A. Signal P.393 dated 1.5.46.
		F/O. B. Colloby	166848 GD/AB	(52)	Posted to R.A.F. Kandy for fire fighters course w.e.f. 20.5.46. S.O.R.S. 11.5.46. Auth: H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. Signal P. 140 dated 29.4.46.
		F/O. G.T. Nash	166618 GD/WOP	(45)	Posted to R.A.F. Kandy for Fire Fighters Course w.e.f. 20.5.46. S.O.R.S. 11.5.46. Auth: H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. Signal P. 140 dated 29.4.46.
		F/O. W.A. Spencer	167628 GD/AB	(55)	
		F/O. P. Freeman	163707 GD/AB	(47)	
		F/O. K. England	164106 GD/AB	(46)	
		F/O. R. Hopkins	167425 GD/AB	(52)	
		F/O. J.V. Crowther	166267 GD/AB	(48)	
		F/O. Rose J.S.	164651 GD/WOP	(51)	Posted to B.R.D. Worli for Repatriation w.e.f. 16.5.46. S.O.R.S. 15.5.46. Auth: A.H.Q.(I). Signal P250 dated 24.4.46.
		F/L. J. F. Bassett	135461 GD/P	(27)	Posted to No.3 R.E.C. on class "A" release w.e.f. 16.5.46. S.O.R.S. 15.5.46. Auth: A.H.Q.(I). Signal P. 574 dated 9.5.46.
		F/L. F.C. Avery	172125 GD/WOP	(41)	Posted to No.3 R.E.C. on class "A" release w.e.f. 27.5.46. S.O.R.S. 23.5.46. Auth: Action Release Group Order No. 21 (H.Q.B.A.F.S.E.C.) Signal P. 798 dated 18.5.46.
		F/O. E. Pratt	167243 GD/WOP	(41)	
		F/O. B. Lyons	165840 GD/AB	(43)	
		F/O. J.F. Craid	184021 GD/P	(43)	Posted to No.3 R.E.C. on class "A" release w.e.f. 27.5.46. S.O.R.S. 28.5.46. Auth: Action Release Group Order No. 21 (H.Q.B.A.F.S.E.C.) Signal P. 798 dated 18.5.46.
		F/O. J.M. Jones	166024 GD/NAV	(41)	
		Part "B" Attachments.			
		F/L. P.W. Budd	157007 GD/P	(27 ext 12)	Attached to No. 3 A.C.T.S. w.e.f. 4.5.46. S.O.R.S. Auth: A.H.Q.(I). Signal P267 dated 25.4.46.
		F/O. B. Colloby	166846 GD/AB	(52)	Ceased to be attached to No. 11 Hill Depot on Completion of E.V.T.M. Eng. course w.e.f. 6.5.46. T.O.R.S. 7.5.46. Auth: H.Q. 228 Group Signal E. 138 dated 4.4.46.
		F/O. J. Reeves	199201 GD/NAV	(31)	Attached to No. 228 Group Comm.

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			ext 6) Flight w.e.f. 11.5.46. S.O.R.S. 12.5.46. Auth: Awaited.
		F/L. (A/S/L) C.M. Hood 121514 GD/P	(34 ext 18) Ceased attachment from No. 232 Squadron w.e.f. 9.5.46. S.O.R.S. 10.5.46. Auth: A.O.C. H.Q. No. 228 Group.
		Part "G" Appointments and Promotions.	
		P/O. J.A.B. Paterson 202518 GD/F.Eng.	(52) Appointed to Commissioned rank in the G.D. Branch of the R.A.F.V.R. as P/O. on probation w.e.f. 11.9.45. (Reported as an Officer 7.5.46) Auth: Air Ministry Letter A.856968/46/ARI(B) P. 71 dated 29.3.46.
		Part "H" Movements From the Unit.	
		1636748 F/S. F/Eng Steele. S.	(46) Attached to No. 11 Hill Depot on E.V.T. Course w.e.f. 9.5.46. S.O.R.S. 3.5.46 Auth: H.Q. No. 228 Group Signal O.169 dated 26.4.46.
		2206814 W/O. W/Op Clinton C.	(52) Posted to A.H.Q. (R.E.) N.E.I. Supy. for Flying Duties w.e.f. 28.4.46. S.O.R.S. 10.5.46. Auth: H.Q.A.C.S.E.A. Signal P 306 dated 25.2.46.
		1815557 F/S. NAV Franklin P.G.	(53) Ceased to be attached from No. 355 Squadron w.e.f. 10.5.46. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		1507138 Sgt. F/Eng Hughs H.A.	(40) Posted to No.3 R.E.C. for class "A" release w.e.f. 20.4.46. S.O.R.S. 16.5.46. Auth: Action Release Group Order No. 20.
		1234398 W/O. NAV Baddams E.A.	(46) Posted to B.R.D. Worli for repatriation w.e.f. 15.5.46. S.O.R.S. 16.5.46. Auth: A.H.Q.(I) Signal P. 612 dated 10.5.46.
		1609964 Sgt. A/B Waite P.A.	(53) Attached to No. 11 Hill Depot w.e.f. 30.3.46. Ceased to be attached w.e.f. 5.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: H.Q. 228 Group Signal E. 84 dated 20.3.46.
		157080 F/S A/G Forrest J.	(51) Attached to H.Q. No. 228 Group
		1806952 F/S. A/G Coe J.D.	(52) w.e.f. 15.5.46. S.O.R.S. 16.5.46. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		2202394 F/S. A/G McSloy J.F.	(54)
		1864853 Sgt. F/Eng Wigg J.B.	(52)
		1860008 W/O. F/E Vaughn L.	(49) Ceased attachment to No. 11 Hill Depot w.e.f. 12.5.46. T.O.R.S. 15.5.46. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		1603569 W/O A/B Waterman J.C.	(47) Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta (B.G.H.) on 16.5.46. Returned on 17.5.46. to this Unit S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: S.M.O. Salbani.
		1454730 Cpl. Clk/GD(iv) Hayes	(40) Posted to No.3 R.E.C. for class "A" release w.e.f. 27.5.46. S.O.R.S.
		1549698 W/O. W/Op McGreger T.S.	(42) 27.5.46. Auth: Action Release Group Order No. 21. (H.Q.B.A.F.S.E.A.)
		1670101 W/O. A/B Taylor J.M.	(44) Signal 798 dated 18.5.46.
		Part "I" Discharges and Releases.	

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		1824813 W/O. F/E Paterson J.B.A.	(52)	Discharged from the Ranks of the R.A.F. on commissioning w.e.f. 11.9.45. (Reported as an Officer on 7.5.46.) Auth: Air Ministry Letter A.856968/46/ARI(b) P.71 dated 29.3.46.
		Part "C" Temporary Duties.		
		F/L. J.F. Bassett 135461 GD/P	(27)	Proceeded on T.D. To Calcutta on 28.4.46. Returned to the Unit 3.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		F/L. J.F. Bassett 135461 GD/P	(27)	Proceeded on T.D. to Darjeeling (Via H.Q. 228 Group) on 3.5.46. Returned to his Unit 8.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: A.O.C. H.Q. No. 228 Group.
		F/O. J.V. Crowther 166267 GD/AB	(48)	Proceeded to T.D. to Calcutta on 6.5.46. Returned to this Unit 8.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: A.O.C. No. 228 Group.
		F/L. J.C. Harland 152618 GD/P	(47)	Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta on 29.3.46. Returned to this Unit 20.3.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/O. D. Abercrombie 199426 GD/P	(46)	Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta for the following period: 27.2.46. to 28.2.46: 5.3.46. to 7.3.46: 20.3.46. to 22.3.46: 24.3.46. to 29.3.46: 1.4.46. to 11.4.46: S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: S.M.O. Salbani.
		F/O. D.S.P. Mitchell 202197 GD/P	(42)	Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta on 18.5.46. Returned to the Unit on 22.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		F/O. J. Willcock 166350 GD/NAV	(56)	Proceeded to T.D. to the S.C. of A. Bombay, by Air on 13.5.46. Returned to the Unit on 22.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		F/O. J.F. Craid 184021 GD/P	(43)	Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta on 22.5.46. Returned to the Unit on 24.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		F/O. P.W. Haines 186725 GD/P	(44)	Proceeded on T.D. to Calcutta on 22.5.46. Returned to the Unit on 24.5.46. S.O.R.S. for the same period. Auth: O.C. Unit.
		General.		
		(a) Squadron disbandment matters were the subject of several conferences and a visit by the O.C. No. 232 Squadron regarding the transfer of Unit Operational crews to that Squadron.		
		(b) It became apparent towards the end of the month that it would not be possible to complete the disbandment of the Squadron by the end of the month as required by A.H.Q. (I) in view of the lack of posting instructions for supernumerary personnel. No. 228 Group were informed to this effect.		
		(L.F. Evans) Squadron Leader Commanding No. 159 Squadron R.A.F.		