159 Squadron April 1944

April 1944: Form 540 159 Squadron image 0591

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Dhubalia	1.4.44	Move of the Squadron being organised once more on account of the fact that the
		runway is unable to take the strain and weight of Liberators in its present condition.
	2.4.44	F/Sgt. C. Kirby 1314663, Rear Gunner in Aircraft EV843 "E" on operations on the
		night of 1/2nd April 1944 was killed by enemy action whilst returning from the target.
		The aircraft landed at Chittagong and he was buried there.
	6.4.44	Advance party of 26 airmen for Digri proceeded by rail from Dhubalia at 07.30 hrs.
		with a limited amount of equipment.
	11.4.44	Provisional air party proceed to Digri at various times during the day.
	13.4.44	1st Road party proceeded. Difficulty experienced in getting transport over the
		Krishnagar ferry. Arrived Digri 20.00 hrs. on 14.4.44.
	15.4.44	Main Air party flew to Digri. Main rail party proceeded from Dhubalia at 20.00 hrs.
		Stops were made at Howrah for tiffen and arrived Digri 03.00 hrs. 17.4.44.
	15.4.44	Fatal accident occurred at the railway crossing from the Domestic Site, Dhubalia to the
		Airfield in which Ford 3 ton Lorry 23/5627 was struck by a Bengal & Assam Railway
		train and 1146272 LAC Haworth F. was killed. 534111 Cpl. Swinburne was seriously
		injured.
	16.4.44	2nd road convoy proceeded from Dhubalia as far as Krishnagar on 'flats' and from
		there by road.
	17.4.44	Move completed and Squadron ready for operations. F/Lt. McDougall proceeded to
		Salboni for P.F.F. Course.
	19.4.44	F/Lt. J. R. E. Fullerton D. F. C/ assumed the duties of Squdn. Adjutant vice F/Lt. R.
		F. Body who proceeded on leave, pending repatriation to U.K.
	19.4.44	534111 Cpl. Swinburne died as a result of his injuries sustained in the accident at level
		crossing, Dhubalia on 15.4.44.
	20.4.44	E.N.S.A. Concert Party visited the Station. Show was staged in the Camp Cinema and
		Stainless Stephen was the chief attraction. Much appreciated by all.
	25.4.44	B.E.S.A. Concert Party – "Bow Bells Music Hall" held at Station Cinema – 2 houses.
	27.4.44	F/O. D. F. Chatt appointed Welfare officer vice P/O. Powell. F/Lt. Watson appointed
		officer i/c Sgts. Mess vice F/O Chatt.
	29.4.44	F/O. de Knock assumes duties of Gunnery Ldr. vice F/Lt. Ustick. F/Lt. West assumes
		duties of Training Officer vice F/Lt. Gauntlett.
	27.4.44	First Hill Party proceeded to Chakrata at 14.25 hrs. – 42 proceeded.
	28.4.44	Details of Court of Enquiry into accident at Dhubalia level crossing were inserted in
		D.R.O's as follows:- President: S/L. J. M. Hillier, Members: F/Lt. D. I. C. Boissier.
		F/Lt. J. H. Watson. W/O. Atkinson M. T. W/O in attendance. Court to assemble with
		least possible delay.
	29.4.44	Visit of Air Vice Marshal Goddard, C.B., C.B.E.
		(I D W 11) W/G1
		(J. P. Hopkins) W/Cdr.,
		Commanding No.159 Sqdn. R.A.F.