159 Squadron February 1944

February 1944: Form 540 159 Squadron

Summary of Events
Squadron Leader C. G. Clegg assumed Command of No. 159 Squadron, vice Wing Commander J. P. Hopkins, D.F.C. (sick), w.e.f. 4.2.44.
The Commanding Officer regretfully announced the death of 1686676 AC2. Faulkner F. H., at No. 30 I.G.H.(C), Midnapore, at 01.45 hours on 4.2.44.
Owing to an outbreak of smallpox all villages surrounding the camp were placed out of bounds w.e.f. 4.2.44.
The Commanding Officer of the Squadron received a letter from General H.C. Davidson, expressing his admiration and gratitude to the crews who had attacked Bangkok during the past two months. It was pointed out that consistently successful results had been obtained and that these exacting long-rang missions were no easy achievement and reflected great credit on the aircrews and the ground staff who had assisted them.
An addition to the traffic control regulation concerning vehicles on the airfield was brought into effect from 15.2.44. "all traffic whishing to cross the runway in use will stop at the numbered boards 75 yards from the runway, and wait for permission to be given by the Airfield Controller. Permission to cross will be given by a "steady green" on an Aldis Light."
F/O. G. Buchanan assumed the duties of P.S.I. Officer vice F/Lt. J. R. Fullerton w.e.f. 21.2.44.
With reference to the coming move of the Squadron to Dhubalia a party of 1 W/O. 9 N.C.O.s and 10 ACs. started the road journey to the new station at 06.00 hrs. on 19.2.44., while an air party consisting of 2 officers, 8 NCO.s and 4 AC.s with F/Lt. Sharpe as Officer i/c Advance Party left Digri for Dhubalia during the afternoon of 21.2.44.
Following the record number of Liberators being sent by R.A.F. from India on night 21/22nd Feb:, a message was received by General Davidson from General Stratemeyer: "congratulations on the mission flown last night by 355 and 159 Squadrons, particularly the number of aeroplanes and crews participating."
Wing Commander J. P. Hopkins, DFC. assumed command of No. 159 Squadron, vice Squadron Leader C. G. Clegg, w.e.f. 25.2.44.
Squadron Leader C. G. Clegg assumed command of No. 159 Squadron vice W/Cdr. J. P. Hopkins, DFC, w.e.f. 27.2.44.
An order was issued to the effect that from today topees would be worn by all ranks. With effect from 22.2.44. F/O. F. L. H. McDougall assumed the office of Officer i/c Parachute Section.
Photographic Section Report.
During the month of February, 69 aircraft obtained 88 successful photographs. 10 aircraft failed to obtain photographs, 3 owing to flash-failures, 3 electrical failures and 4 due to faulty camera operation. For practically the whole of February aircraft have been limited to 1 photo. flash per aircraft owing to the shortage of same. This explains the low number of prints obtained considering the number of aircraft operating.
Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F.