

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Digri	6.3.44	The move of No. 159 Squadron from Digri to Dhubalia was carried out according to instructions laid down in the Movement Order, a copy of which is attached. The various parties, apart from the Advance Party reported in No. 159 Squadron Form 540 for February, 1944, left Digri as follows: 0500 hrs. 6th March, Road Convoy: 08.30 hrs. 7th March, Air Party: 23.00 hrs. 7th March, Main Party, by rail (arrived Dhubalia 22.00 hrs. 8/3/44): 03.45 hrs. 8th March, final road party, which arrived Dhubalia 03.00 hrs. 10th March. The primitive ferry across the river at Krishnagar proved totally inadequate for transporting a large number of heavy M.T. vehicles. Consequently considerable delay was caused and much extra work entailed in unloading vehicles in order to permit their being carried by the ferry. All personnel concerned tackled the heavy task willingly, thus once again demonstrating the good co-operative spirit existing on the Squadron.
Dhubalia	9.3.44	The following announcement was made in Squadron D.R.O.s: "With effect from today the following working hours come into effect; Commence work - 07.00 hrs. Cease work - 12.30 hours. Commence work - 17.00 hrs. Cease work - 19.00 hours. On operational days, and on other days when work necessitates, airmen may be detailed for duty during the afternoon period."
	14.3.44	P/O F. Heynert assumed the duties of Office i/c P.S.I., vice F/O G. Buchanan, wef 14.3.44.
	17.3.44	A speed limit of 20 miles per hour was imposed on all M. T. vehicles within the bounds of Dhubalia Camp, w.e.f. 17.3.44
	20.3.44	It was announced that all native villages in and around the camp, together with all the native houses in Krishnagar, were out of bounds to all personnel of the Squadron.
		It was announced in the Squadron D.R.O.s that w.e.f. 21.1.44. the title "Strategical Air Force was to be altered to read, "Strategic Air Force".
	24.3.44	A District Court Martial was summoned to assemble at the Officers' mess, No. 1 Camp, RAF Station, Dhubalia, at 09.00 hours, 24.3.44. composed as under: President.....W/Cdr. W. J. Hiller (B.H.Q. Calcutta) Members.....S/Ldr. R. H. Dawson (" " " ") F/Lt. A. E. Coombes (" " " ") Waiting Members...F/Lt. Jackson (No. 215 Squadron) F/Lt. G. Lodge (No. 159 Squadron) Prosecutor.....F/Lt. R. P. C. Perkins. For the purpose of trying the accused, 1020758 LAC. Crossland K. of No. 159 Squadron, RAF. Witnesses.....Lt./Col. L. G. Bailey, C.B.E. (Khargpur) 4345929 L/Cpl. C. Sweeting (63. L of C.P.U.) 12063698 Cpl. W. J. Pannell (U.S.A. M.P.) 1007137 LAC. W. Mullan (1577 Flight) After the Court had assembled and been sworn in, the prisoner was released without prejudice, owing to the chief witness, Lt/Col. L. G. Bailey, C.B.E. , not being available for three months.
Dhublaia	17.3.44	Wing Commander J. P. Hopkins, D.F.C., assumed command of No. 159 Squadron vice Squadron Leader C. G. Clegg, w.e.f. 17.3.44.
	27.3.44	Two Liberators Mark VI and crews, "V" captain, S/Ldr. C. G. Clegg, and "B", captain, F/O Pendleton, left Dhubalia for a three day detachment to U.S.A.A.F. station Madhaiganj, in order to obtain information on low level bombing attacks against railway and shipping targets.
		WELFARE NOTES.
		During the month of March whilst the Squadron was at Digri, a piano was purchased, the money being supplied through the Command Welfare Officer. Two Petrol pressure lamps were purchased for improving the lighting of the airmen's recreation room. A very successful Darts Competition was held for the Wing Commander Boffee Cup,

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		<p>and medals were provided for individual members' of the winning team, The Armoury team, which competed against the Cooks team in the Final.</p> <p>Before the Main party arrived at Dhubalia, Cpl. Ball of the Welfare Committee who was a member of the advance party, organized a Recreation Room for the airmen in readiness for the arrival of the squadron. Folding upholstered chairs were purchased from Krishnagar, curtains and heavy furniture were supplied by the Canteen Contractor, and artificial flowers, table-tennis table, and equipment were acquired from Calcutta. All personnel appreciated the installation of electric light in the Recreation Room. A battery model H.M.V. Radio was supplied by the Command Welfare Officer, and personnel of Signals Section during their spare time converted an old battery model wireless set into an all-mains A.C. or D.C. This should prove a valuable asset owing to the acute shortage of batteries. The Welfare Committee have worked exceedingly hard during the month, and have several plans which they hope to put into operation during the coming month.</p>
		SPORTS NOTES.
		<p>During March all sports activities were somewhat curtailed owing to the Squadron move to Dhubalia. At a sports Meeting on March 22nd, it was decided to wait before making any definite arrangements in view of a further move from Dhubalia. The beginning of the month saw the completion of the football League Competition, which was won by Headquarters team, with "A" Flight aircrew runners-up.</p> <p>Before the move from Digri, hockey was becoming very popular and several games were played. It is hoped to begin a Hockey League. On March 31st a Softball Game between aircrew Sergeants and Aircrew Officers took place. Although a number of the players had not played the game previously, a very amusing and enjoyable evening resulted. The aircrew sergeants were the winners by 16-15.</p>
		MEDICAL NOTES
		<p>On March 7th, No. 159 Squadron moved to Dhubalia. In the main it can be said that the station was far from being ready for the reception of a Heavy Bomber Squadron.</p> <p>Cookhouses: These were in a gross state of unpreparedness. Washing-up facilities and even cooking arrangements were inadequate. Drainage was primitive and dangerous - dangerous in so much as disposal of sullage favoured fly-breeding and consequent health dangers.</p> <p>Water Supply: Two water points existed for the whole squadron - one for officers and one for Senior N.C.O.s, N.C.O.s and airmen. These water points consisted of one tap per joint. It is unnecessary to comment further.</p> <p>Malaria: The malaria in this area is high among the natives - it will be high among RAF personnel, because a considerable number of Indians living in the camp area must form a vast reservoir of infection There is at least one big Indian village between the Domestic and Technical sites. It is needless to add that the health, even the very lives of Squadron personnel will be menaced by malaria and other communicable diseases, if these natives and their habitations are allowed to remain in such close proximity to our personnel.</p>
		OFFICERS PROMOTIONS AND POSTINGS
		<p>F/O. E. J. D. Stanley (114064 GD(P)) promoted to F/Lt. (WS) w.e.f. 9.12.43 P/O. B. Clifton DFM (50589 GD(G)) promoted to F/O (on probation (WS)) w.e.f. 19.5.43 F/O. J. H. Watson (Can. J.7802 GD(N)) promoted F/Lt. (WS) w.e.f. 1.1.43 F/O. J. R. Gauntlett (106221 GD(P)) promoted F/Lt. (WS) w.e.f. 6.9.43 P/O. T. Titchmarsh (151668 GD(N)) promoted F/O (on probation) (WS) w.e.f. 19.9.43 P/O. F. P. A. Heynert (149322 GD(P)) promoted Flying Officer on prob. (WS) w.e.f. 22.7.43 P/O. J. H. H. Lentz (149221GD(P)) promoted F/O on prob. (WS) w.e.f. 22.7.43 P/O. H. F. Kerley (134741 GD(N)) promoted F/O on prob. (WS) w.e.f. 3.12.43 P/O. K. H. Mills (117471 GD(G)) posted from 1673 Flight w.e.f. 9.1.44 (55091 GD(P)) P/O. Barlow posted, ex U.K. w.e.f. 14.2.44 P/O. Robinson (Aus. 426239 GD(P)) posted, ex. U.K. 14.2.44 F/Lt. S. A. Sharpe (45711 GD(P)) posted to No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 24.2.44</p>

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		<p>F/O. K. H. Brailsford (139520 GD(P)) posted to No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 24.2.44 F/O. E. D. Wallace (Aus. 404122 GD(P)) posted to No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 24.2.44 P/O. J. A. B. Campbell (169483 GD(N)) posted from No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 28.2.44 P/O. W. L. deKnock (155822 GD(G)) posted from No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 28.2.44 P/O. H. F. Kerley (134741 GD(N)) posted from No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 28.2.44 F/O. J. P. Hicks (Aus 408085 GD(G)) posted from No. 1673 H.C.U. w.e.f. 28.2.44 F/O. K. P. Alcorn (Aus 415599 GD(P)) posted from No. 355 Sqdn. w.e.f. 28.2.44 F/Lt. J. R. Gauntelett (106221 GD(P)) posted from¹ B.H.Q. Calcutta N/E sick, w.e.f. 19.1.44 F/Lt. F. E. Ashworth (114041 GD(G)) posted to B.H.Q. Calcutta N/E sick w.e.f. 24.1.44 F/O. R. W. Ustick (Can J.11360 GD(G)) posted to F/Lt. Gunner (g) post w.e.f. 28.2.44 F/O. K. W. Edwards (Aus 400053 GD(G)) posted to No. 356 Squadron w.e.f. 28.2.44</p>

¹ Record says "from", although he may have been posted "to".